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Champion
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MP supports residents' solar farm campaign

focus on Care
Pull out inside

Caroline pictured during her visit to Buckingham Palace

Royal treat for cancer charity worker Caroline

A MACMILLAN Cancer professional from Skelmersdale was invited to attend The Prince of Wales' 70th Birthday Patronage Celebration held in the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

Caroline Flynn, information and support service manager for West Lancashire, represented Macmillan Cancer Support at the event dedicated to the achievements of The Prince of Wales' patronages, military affiliations and other charities supported by His Royal Highness.

The guests were joined by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in their first royal engagement following their wedding last alongside hosts, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Each professional was nominated to attend

Continued inside

BLUE BIN CHARGE ROW RUMBLES ON

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE ongoing row over West Lancs Council's controversial changes to the borough's green waste and recycling collection services has taken a new turn with an opposition councillor questioning whether the council has any authority to charge residents for a new recycling bin.

Councillor Adrian Owens, Our West Lancs representative for Derby ward, initially described the charge as "unjust" but now he claims that further developments have shown that it may not even be allowed.

Earlier this year the council introduced an overhaul of its green waste and recycling collection services, with new brown bins being brought in for green waste with existing green bins to be used for paper and cardboard waste.

Meanwhile, the blue bins would continue to be used to recycle plastic bottles, glass, and cans. The change was initially scheduled to take place on Monday, June 4 but has since been put back until Monday, July 16.

When the blue bins were originally brought in, in 2013, residents were given the option to keep the blue boxes which they used to recycle the items.

However, under the new system the council is asking all people to use blue bins and has said it will charge them if they don't already have one

Cllr. Owens previously claimed the charge had been "slipped in" with the other changes and that it was unjust.

Councillor Adrian Owens with the original blue recycling box and the blue bin which he says the council hasn't got approval to charge for.

Since then, he says, residents have been unable to get a "definitive" answer from their local councillors as to whether the charge will continue to be applied. He also said there was no evidence the decision to charge residents had been approved.

A statement issued by Our West Lancashire reads: "The council admitted that there is no written record of a decision being made to charge for blue bins in this circumstance. Our West Lancashire is now questioning whether council officers have the necessary authority to act as they are doing.

"The council state that there may be upwards of 10,000 households using blue boxes. In the report at February's council meeting they said that those homes with design or access issues would be able to continue to use the blue box. When we asked them how many households this entailed, they replied that they had no estimation. Quite how they can implement this policy therefore is anyone's guess.

"The council have already delayed the change until July 16 and so your blue box will definitely continue to be collected until that date.

"Our advice remains to continue to use your blue box at the present time."

Meanwhile residents have written to the Champion calling on the council to abandon the new policy on bins which they say is not helping the environment but creating more non-recycable plastic and cluttering up the streets.

One of the correspondents, who did not wish to be named, wrote: "West Lancs Council have 'moved the goal posts' regarding the blue bins and the alternative of keeping the blue box.

"We declined a blue bin for cans, glass and plastic bottles when it was offered to us in favour of keeping the blue box for the purpose, which we can keep inside and we still have the lid with the sticker, supplied by the council at the time, stating 'No bin, thanks! One box is fine.'

"How then is it right or fair that the council should FORCE us to pay £25 for a bin, which we still DO NOT WANT?"

West Lancs Council has been asked for comment but at the time of going to press had not done so.

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MP supports residents' campaign to block Lathom solar farm bid

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has backed local opposition to controversial plans for a solar farm in Lathom's green belt.

The Champion first highlighted concerns about the proposed installation in February when local historians suggested that the intended site was one which had been used to bury horses used in the First World War.

Since then a number of residents have contacted Ms Cooper claiming that they had not been formally notified by either West Lancashire Borough Council or the applicants, Pilkingtons/NSG and Lightsource - a claim refuted by Lightsource.

Concerns have also been raised by the Lathom Heritage Residents Group over whether the field in question contains the graves of the 'war horses' which were stationed at the former World War One remount depot.

The MP visited the site and met with local residents to better understand the physical and visual impacts the solar farm would have on the area.

She said: "There is clearly serious concern and opposition to this application from the local community, who feel they haven't been afforded an adequate opportunity to raise their concerns over the application as it stands.

"It appears the council have undertaken their notification of neighbours process but only reached six properties, including one which is abandoned, one business, and one property rented by the applicant themselves.

"Residents are also upset about the sensitivity of installing solar panels on land where it is believed there are graves of war horses, in this, the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One.

"I have written to the planning director at West Lancashire Borough Council to raise these concerns and ensure they are fully addressed before any application can be considered."

Rosie Cooper MP with local residents and members of the Lathom Heritage Group at the site

A spokesperson for Lightsource BP, responded: "We are committed to engaging with local residents on all applications. We have consulted widely with the community about our proposals for this site, including writing to 720 residents within a 2km radius of the site and holding an information event.

'Supportive'

"The vast majority of the feedback has been supportive of our proposal.

"We appreciate the important heritage of Lathom House and as part of the thorough assessment process, heritage experts undertook a geophysical survey, which was reviewed in light of the reports regarding the possibility of a war horse burial site being present on the proposed land in February.

"This found no evidence of horse burials within the proposed development site.

"We will continue to ensure that members of the public, as well as the local MP and councillors, have the opportunity to share their views."

A spokesman for West Lanc Council stated: "The application is under consideration by the council so it would be inappropriate to comment on its merits.

"Publicity has been carried out in accordance with statutory requirements which has included notification of properties located immediately adjacent to the application site, the posting of site notices and publication of a press notice.

"Any member of the public, regardless of whether they have been formally notified of the application, can submit any comments they may have in respect of the proposal to the council via the planning pages of its website quoting application reference no. 2018/0409/FUL.

"All representations submitted will be given full consideration by the council in its decision-making process."

Buckingham Palace date for Macmillan Cancer support service manager

From Page 1

by a member of Macmillan staff in their region, for the outstanding contribution they have provided to support people affected by cancer.

Following a speech by the Duke of Sussex about the work of the Prince of Wales over the last 50 years, guests were invited to speak with the royal hosts and listen to musical entertainment by the Band of the Welsh Guards and Borough Welsh Choir.

Caroline, who launched a Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre at the Concourse in Skelmersdale last year, said: "I felt very honoured to be nominated and then very excited when the invitation came through.

"I would have been more than happy with just the nomination, which recognised the work that we are doing in West Lancashire, but to then receive the invitation was the icing on the cake.

"The event commenced with the Royals coming onto the back steps at Buckingham Palace and Prince Harry gave a warm and witty speech, which warmed the audience.

"I feel very proud to be working for Macmillan and very honoured to have been chosen to attend. I have worked for the NHS for 39 years so this was extra special, considering I have only been in post since September 2016.

"It was a memorable day, and I loved every minute of it, but I am fully aware that the achievements we have made so far is with the help and support of West Lancashire CCG, the cancer services team at Southport Hospital Trust, Macmillan itself and especially the team - my amazing assistants and the great volunteers we have."

The Bike Works volunteers Keith Taylor and leader Colin Southern will be cycling from Liverpool to Chester and back to raise money for Claire House Children's Hospice.

Charity workers saddle up for 50-mile challenge in aid of children's hospice

VOLUNTEERS from The Bike Works in Skelmersdale are saddling up to raise money for Claire House Children's Hospice.

The Bike Works provides low-cost and free bikes as well as training to the local community.

Volunteer Keith Taylor, 63, and project leader Colin Southern, 48, will be taking part in the Liverpool to Chester and back bike ride, which passes through the Queensway Mersey tunnel on Sunday, July 1 and have already raised £1,400 in sponsorship.

The non-competitive event for families and those of all abilities is now in its 25th year raising money for Claire House, based in Wirral, which provides care and support to seriously ill and terminally ill children and their families.

Keith, who is originally from Birkenhead but now lives in Old Skelmersdale, says the Mersey tunnel has always been a big part of his life. And when he heard about the Liverpool to Chester ride he thought that riding through the tunnel would be a good experience.

He said: "You're never too old to take up cycling. When you do a ride like this it has to be for a reason and I was so inspired by Claire House that I wanted to do something to help."

His cycling companion Colin, whose brother passed away from cancer four years ago, has previously raised money for several cancer charities, including Race For Life.

He said: "When I found out what Keith was doing I signed up for the race straight away as it is a subject close to my heart.

"When I'm not helping run the bike project I am a fitness coach so have been giving Keith advice on training and nutrition to help him complete the ride. Keith is relatively new to riding and for him to embark on a 50-mile bike ride in a relatively short time is quite amazing."

You can follow Colin and Keith's journey on The Bike Works Facebook page where they will posting up pictures and quotes from their adventures.

For more information about the ride or to make a donation call The Bike Works on 01695 240 321.

Ann steps down after more than two decades as aide to civic leaders

A BOROUGH council officer who has supported West Lancashire's civic heads for 24 years and helped to raise approximately £200,000 for worthy causes across the area is retiring from the authority.

Ann England will be a familiar name to many people across the borough as she has worked as PA to the chair (before the role of mayor was introduced in 2009) and mayors of West Lancs and their respective deputies, since 1998.

Major events she has worked on include the annual Remembrance Sunday Service in Ormskirk and the day in 2011 when the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment was given the Freedom of the Borough.

She has also helped the mayors raise money for their chosen charities, and the long list of worthy causes helped includes the Special Care Baby Unit at Ormskirk Hospital, the Skem Men-Aces, the Alzheimer's Society in West Lancashire, Queenscourt Hospice, The West Lancashire Stroke Association, Lancashire Young Carers, The Civic in Ormskirk and the Artz Centre and the Birchwood Centre in Skelmersdale.

Ann England with current Mayor, Councillor Noel Delaney. (Photo supplied by the Artz Centre.)

Ann joined the council in 1994 and worked for the chief executive for four years. Since 2011, she has also been PA to the leader of West Lancs Council.

She said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working for West Lancashire Borough Council and I will really miss working for them and the hustle and bustle of the job. There have been far too may highlights to mention, but the day the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment was given the Freedom of the Borough was a very special occasion.

"I will also miss my colleagues but I am looking forward to my retirement and plan to do some voluntary work."

'Great servant'

Current Mayor, Councillor Noel Delaney, who has also worked with Ann when he served as deputy mayor's consort, mayor's consort, and deputy mayor, said: "Ann has been a great servant to the civic heads of West Lancashire and also the leaders of West Lancs Borough Council since she took on that role. We will all miss her very much and we wish her the very best in her retirement."

And council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, added: "I would like thank Ann England for all her hard work and I hope she enjoys her well-earned retirement."

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Northern introduce interim timetables in bid to reduce last-minute cancellations

NORTHERN Rail has announced a temporary change to its timetables to help reduce last-minute cancellations.

From Monday (June 4) 165 out of the company's scheduled 2,800 daily services, will be temporarily removed, until the end of July.

Northern say this interim timetable will enable them to start to stabilise service levels over the next few weeks and, importantly, start to reduce the number of last-minute train cancellations.

In the short-term they will be running fewer services, but still more than before the May timetable change. It is then hoped to get back to a full timetable service by the end of July.

Managing director of Northern, David Brown, said: "We have been experiencing some significant disruption to train services, especially around north Manchester, Bolton, Liverpool, Blackpool and up to the Lake District. I'd like to apologise for this unacceptable situation and for the disruption and inconvenience many passengers have faced. We're truly sorry for this and are working hard to fix this.

"We are absolutely committed to resolving the service issues, and the interim plan will help ensure we start to get back on track and start to give customers more certainty around the services we operate."

There will be reductions between Ormskirk and Preston and a small number between Blackburn and Southport via Manchester Victoria.

Northern say that on some routes there will be alternative rail services available, as well as other modes of transport. And, where available, rail replacement buses will also operate on affected routes with details provided locally for customers.

● Independent report into rail chaos - Page 11
● Parties row over county council response - Page 15

Lime Street closed for two months

LIVERPOOL'S Lime Street railway station closed last weekend and will remain unavailable for commuters until Sunday, July 29 as it undergoes a major refurbishment.

The station closed on Saturday, June 2 for eight weeks as Network Rail carries out its biggest upgrade since the 19th century.

The work, which began in phases in 2017, is a key part of the £340million railway investment in the Liverpool City Region within the Great North Rail Project.

During the works engineers will be remodelling station platforms, increasing them in number and in length.

Overhead line equipment will also be installed/ renewed to power electric trains and changes will be made to provide extra services.

For more information on timetables visit the website: www.networkrail.co.uk

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Edge Hill announces launch of new Foundation Year for Medicine course

Professor hails 'fantastic opportunity' for aspiring doctors

Report by **Henry James**

Edge Hill University Medical School will launch a Foundation Year for Medicine course starting in 2019.

EDGE Hill University Medical School has announced the launch of a Foundation Year for Medicine course starting in 2019.

The one-year course will prepare students to enter the five-year medical degree that starts in 2020.

The Foundation Year is for students from the region who have the right A-level qualifications, but need to reach a higher academic standard before they can start on a degree in medicine. Applications will be through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) with a deadline of October 15, 2018.

Professor Clare Austin, director of Medical Education, said: "The Foundation Year is a fantastic opportunity for people with the aspiration to become doctors, whose circumstances may have held them back.

"We want to recruit people with the potential to become part of a new generation of doctors and the Foundation Year is an important part of making that happen."

To apply for the course applicants will need 120 UCAS tariff points including A-level biology and chemistry at Grade B or above, or equivalent, plus at least five GCSEs at Grade B or Grade 6 or above including biology, chemistry, English language and mathematics.

In addition, applicants must meet widening participation criteria as detailed on the university website at ehu.ac.uk/medfy.

Professor Austin added: "This is a brand new opportunity for students studying biology and chemistry A-levels, which they may not have considered before as they progress through college or sixth form.

"Unlike most degrees, applications for medicine need to be in by October 15 so anyone thinking the Foundation Year might be for them is advised to do their research over the summer to be ready to apply promptly in the autumn.

"Coming to an open day is the best way to find out more; they are a great way to find out about the course, university life and practicalities, such as accommodation and finance."

The new Edge Hill University Medical School is one of only three new free-standing medical schools in the country, with a mission to develop a new generation of doctors who understand the needs of the local communities.

Successful completion of the Foundation Year at the required pass mark enables progression onto the five-year MBChB medical programme at the Ormskirk campus which commences in 2020.

Undergraduate medical education delivered by all universities is subject to a General Medical Council approval process and the MBChB programme at Edge Hill is due to complete the required stages of that process for September 2020 entry.

Anyone interested in the Foundation Year can find out more at the Edge Hill University Open Day on Saturday, June 16. More details at ehu.ac.uk/opendays.

'Human Book Chain' will mark completion of £27m Catalyst building

MORE than 250 people will form a 'human book chain' at Edge Hill University to mark the completion of its brand new £27m Catalyst building on Wednesday, June 13.

The symbolic event will see staff, students and local schoolchildren pass books from person to person from the old library to the new facility, in a chain snaking along the university's hub boulevard.

Musicians and performers will also be on hand to celebrate the opening of the innovative building at the heart of the campus, which will house the library, careers and student services functions in its contemporary 8,000-square metre space.

University chiefs believe Catalyst will be an inspiring 24/7 destination for the Edge Hill community with welcoming, knowledgeable staff on hand to support student life, research, learning and career development.

The 'destination' building will provide a 50 per cent increase in study spaces, with 30 bookable rooms plus two training rooms. Students will also get improved access to services with 24-hour opening.

Around 230,000 books will sit on 5,000 shelves and the building's top floor will be a dedicated space for study, silent working and research, with a traditional reading-room feel.

Catalyst will have a landscaped roof terrace with views across the 160-acre campus and beyond.

The ground floor will feature a coffee shop and an exhibition space which will host events and double as a relaxation area.

A dedicated space will also offer workstations equipped with specialist software currently only accessible within individual faculty buildings. The building will feature interactive, touch-screen technology and many of its services will be bookable online.

'Don't punish staff for train delays' plea

LANCASHIRE County Council's shadow cabinet member for economic regeneration has called on employers to show some understanding for staff currently caught up in unavoidable train delays.

Transport chaos has engulfed many parts of the region recently due to changes in timetables, shortages of drivers and over-running engineering works.

County Councillor Julie Gibson *(pictured)* who represents the Skelmersdale West ward on the authority, said: "As a former commuter from Ormskirk to Liverpool I remember what it was like to travel on public transport, it was my only way to get to work.

"Although it ran perfectly well most of the time I do remember occasions when I was ringing in work to alert them to the fact I would possibly be late again, sometimes for the second time in a week and through no fault of my own.

"Whilst the chaos of recent weeks has quite rightly been focused on train companies what is often forgotten is the impact on the passenger to get to work on time and I've heard some worrying accounts of people being scared to ring their workplace often for the third or fourth time in a row to explain why they will be late.

"I was fortunate when I was a commuter to have an understanding employer; but I know many fellow passengers who weren't and I would urge employers to have some sympathy and understanding at this time."

West Lancs Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert at the launch of The Age of Inspiration at Tanhouse Community Centre. Also pictured are Paula Gamester and Maureen Fazal of The Sewing Rooms who hosted the event along with Yvonne Eyes,(left) of Carers Support and Amanda Spavin, Community Project Officer.

New Mayor drops in for tea and a spot of inspiration at award-winning social enterprise

ONE of the first official duties of the new Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert, was a visit to an Afternoon Tea and Age of Inspiration event at the Tanhouse Community Centre, organised by Skelmersdale's award-winning social enterprise, The Sewing Rooms.

The Sewing Rooms are launching practical ways for the over-50s to stay strong and resilient.

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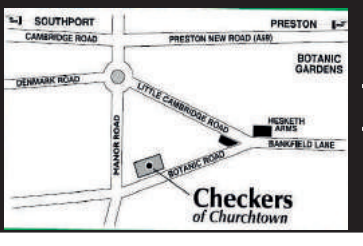

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Watchdogs praise quality of staff and training at care home

Report by **Henry James**

Staff and residents at Birch Green Care home have been celebrating their 'good' rating from the Care Quality Commission

INSPECTORS have praised the quality of staff and the training they receive at a care home in Skelmersdale.

In awarding the Birch Green home in Ivydale a 'good' rating, inspectors from the industry's watchdog, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) made particular note of the commitment of staff.

All areas of the home - which is part of the Springhill Care Group - were examined, from the safety of the service to how it is led, with inspectors looking at everything from how medicines are stored to the quality of day-to-day activities.

To celebrate the good news, staff, residents and family members gathered at the home for a party, toasting the inspection results.

The report notes that "people were supported to have maximum choice and control of their lives and staff supported them in the least restrictive way possible."

It went on to add: "Staff members were very knowledgeable about those in their care. We found the staff team to be well trained, through induction programmes, training modules, regular supervision and annual appraisals."

The relationship between staff and residents was also highlighted. "We saw staff consistently demonstrating caring skills towards those who lived at the home. The staff team clearly knew people well and had an excellent rapport with them."

Donna Briggs, managing director of the Springhill Care Group, said the home had worked hard to achieve the rating.

She said: "Our staff at Birch Green work tirelessly to ensure the quality of care delivered for residents is first class, and we are delighted that this has been recognised by the CQC.

"We are particularly pleased to note that the CQC highlighted the training and development we deliver to staff. Our staff are the secret to our success, and we aim to support them in developing their chosen career pathways with relevant support from a dedicated team.

"It's great to see that the relationship between staff and residents has been praised in this way, as we really do think of ourselves as one big family."

Members of Lathom High School Parent Forum at the stand in the Concourse

Parents set up Concourse stand to highlight work of school forum

MEMBERS of the Lathom High School Parent Forum set up a stand for the day at the Concourse shopping centre in Skelmersdale to highlight the work they do.

The aim of the event was to inform families of youngsters at the school about the forum's role and activities, including their monthly support group.

The stand also provided information about happenings at the school such as the new uniform; free school uniforms for all Year 7s; free blazers and ties for all students; and free after-school buses chaperoned by Lathom staff.

Parent Forum member, Linda Bennett, said: "During the day there were many positive comments regarding our new re-launched uniform. People said it looked smart and how the children loved wearing it.

"There was also much positivity about the school and how families felt change was coming through and how children were beginning to enjoy school.

"It was a positive event which aimed to benefit the school and the community.

"People seemed to be pleased that staff are chaperoning our school bus and they were also pleased to hear about the free bus if you attend school clubs and homework clubs, and the fact that new uniform is free to all Year 7s.

"I could see the real positivity these initiative are having on families, especially as money can be tight.

"We also took a comments book to the event and asked parents to write their thoughts in it which we have passed on to headteacher, Jane Galbraith."

Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney and Ann Stubbert 'dig in' to launch the new Ashurst Park housing development

Civic launch for new housing development

A NEW housing development in Skelmersdale was given by a civic launch when the new Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubert went along to 'cut' the first sod.

The event marked the start of the Gleeson Homes' Ashurst Park development of 45 two, three and four-bedroom homes. The civic couple joined Gleeson's area manager, Tony Hancock and sales manager, Simon Dicanio to mark the start of construction of the new homes.

Councillor Delaney commented: "I was delighted to officially start the development of the scheme which will bring more quality houses to Skelmersdale. This shows the confidence that housebuilders currently have in the town."

And Tony Hancock added: "In addition to promoting home ownership to local young people and helping them to get out of the rent trap and onto the property ladder Gleeson is dedicated to making a difference in the community.

"We provide job opportunities for local people and subcontractors, offer apprenticeship schemes and provide sponsorship for local junior sports teams."

If you have a junior sports team in need of sponsorship or would like further details on the apprenticeship scheme, Gleeson would like to hear from you.

For further information about the Community Matters Programme visit www.gleeson-homes.co.uk.

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County constabulary accredited as a Living Wage Employer

ALL staff working across Lancashire Constabulary will now be paid the real Living Wage - thanks, it's claimed, to Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw's commitment to recognise the key role that everyone across the force plays in keeping the county safe.

The constabulary has been accredited as a real Living Wage Employer and 119 members of staff have now received a pay rise, with the lowest paid roles now set to earn £8.75 per hour, compared to the current National Living Wage at £7.83 and the National Minimum Wage at £7.38.

The real Living Wage is an hourly rate, independently set annually by the Living Wage Foundation. Unlike the National Living Wage, this is calculated according to the basic cost of living.

The force joins the commissioner's office, which is already a Living Wage Employer, making it one of the first police forces in the country to gain accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation.

Paying the real Living Wage is part of the commissioner's social value policy which was brought in with support from Lancashire Constabulary to ensure that all procurement and commissioning activity maximises social, economic and environmental benefit, while also delivering value for money.

Clive Grunshaw

Mr Grunshaw said: "I'm proud that we have been able to gain this accreditation for Lancashire Constabulary. As we're all aware, the cost of living is increasing and I feel it is important to recognise and reward the efforts of every employee.

"We have dedicated staff across the organisation who all play a role in keeping the public of Lancashire safe so it's only right they are paid a wage which reflects the real cost of living.

"This is something which the force has worked hard to implement and is the right thing to do - supporting those on lower wages is a sign of a good employer that brings the best out of its employees.

"Both the constabulary and I are committed to entering into agreements with businesses that pay the living wage, recognising that it can make a really positive impact on people's lives and the organisation that they work for."

Benefit

Chief Constable Andy Rhodes, of Lancashire Constabulary, said: "I'm delighted Lancashire Constabulary has been accredited as a real Living Wage Employer.

"While the majority of staff already earn above the Living Wage, a number of employees will now benefit from this accreditation. This move recognises their hard work and contribution to Lancashire Constabulary."

And UNISON branch secretary for Lancashire Constabulary staff, Maureen Le Marinel, added: Our members have, like many other public sector workers, suffered the effects of austerity and below inflation pay awards. This move will go a long way in helping those members and staff."

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Pupils and staff at St James' Catholic Primary School who took part in the Royal Mile event

School turns out in force for 'Royal Mile' event

PUPILS and staff at St James' Catholic Primary School in Ashurst took part in the Royal Mile event organised by the Active West Lancs partnership, which aimed to get Lancashire to 'walk around the world' in a day.

Commissioned by Lancashire County Council to deliver a three-year programme to improve health and wellbeing across the borough, Active West Lancs comprises West Lancs Borough Council, West Lancs School Sports Partnership, West Lancs CVS Community Food Growing and West Lancs Community Leisure Trust.

As part of the event every primary school in the borough was encouraged to get all pupils to complete a mile - walking, running or skipping.

At St James', the children - some as young as three - and staff linked this activity with the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan and the whole school dressed in red, white and blue to complete the mile 'their way.'

A course was marked out on the school field culminating in a finishing line to the 'Palace' up 'The Mall' where some 'royal' visitors were seated to encourage participants.

Headteacher, Dave Iliff commented, "At St James' we love to get the whole school involved where older pupils help and encourage our younger pupils in a shared activity."

Lord-Lieutenant and Mayor to open vets' Armed Forces Fun Days

Report by **Henry James**

THE Skelmersdale Veterans' Assocation have signed up two VIP guests to perform the opening ceremonies on both days of their Armed Forces Fun Weekend next month.

New Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney, will do the honours on Saturday, July 14, and the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth, will take over the role on Sunday, July 15.

Meanwhile association officials are urging townsfolk to make a date in their diaries to ensure a bumper turnout at the event at Blaguegate Playing Fields running from 10am to 5pm on both days.

Chairman of the group, Alan Lewis, said: "It's a great honour for us that the Mayor of West Lancashire and Lord Shuttleworth have agreed to open the event."

The event will feature, among others, the Queen's Own Yeomanry, the Military Vehicle Trust and a Veterans Village, which will include agencies such as the Royal British Legion, Combat Stress, Help for Heroes and the Veterans' café Leyland, Chorley and Wigan.

Some veterans will also be bringing their bikes and trikes and there will be a Norman re-enactment, carrying out a medieval combat display, to entertain the crowds.

In addition, a number of different cadet units will attend, as well as including the Air Training Corps and the Police Cadets.

And adding a sporty feel to proceedings will be a veterans' five-a-side- football tournament run by Wigan Athletic Community Trust.

Any company wanting to put a five-a-side walking football team together to take part can contact Alan Moore at svasec@outlook.com or Alan Lewis on 07939 660 048.

The association would also like to hear from any groups of singers and bands wishing to play at the Armed Forces Fun Weekend.

Cricket club talk date

WARREN Evans *(pictured above)*, chief executive officer of Sports Chaplaincy UK, will give a talk entitled 'Is It Just A Question of Sport? at Skelmersdale Club tomorrow evening (Thursday, June 7) starting at 7.30pm.

Organised by the men's ministry team, which is overseen by Lawrence Smye-Rumsby, a licensed lay minister based at St Paul's Church in Skelmersdale, the event at the venue in Blaguegate Lane, Lathom, is open to everyone.

Admission is £5, which includes hot-pot, and tickets can be booked from Danny on 07896 335 160 or just turn up and pay on the evening.

Winchester on target

SHARPSHOOTERS from the Winchester Club are on cue for a trophy-laden season in the Skelmersdale Pool League.

The team from the Liverpool Road venue had the league title sewn up with two matches left to play and were also assured of carrying off the singles crown by providing both finalists in the individual knock-out.

They are also in the finals of the JoeLyn and Potting cups and are represented in the semi finals of a doubles competition.

The team would like to thank the managers of the Winchester, Mr and Mrs Daly, for their hospitality and support throughout this season.

Library to celebrate National Empathy Day

SKELMERSDALE Library is set to celebrate National Empathy Day on Tuesday, June 12.

The aim of the day is to use books 'to build more understanding between us all, because reading in itself can make us more empathetic and sharing books can connect us in new ways.'

Organisers are inviting people to pop into the library in Southway for a cuppa and to enjoy a chat and share some books.

During the event, which runs from 2 to 3.30pm, there will be a performance by Devine Days in the library starting at around 2pm.

There will also be refreshments hosted by the Friends of Skelmersdale Library; a book display and Empathy Wall and a display by West Lancashire County High School.

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Classic Boxes

Small £5.50
Regular £6.50 • Large £7.50

VEGGIE BOX

Tofu, mushroom, pineapple, tomato, broccoli and Asian vegetables all simmered in a sauce of your choice (soy, sweet chilli, hot chilli).

PAD THAI BOX

Chicken, broccoli, market fresh Asian vegetables and egg all wok tossed in an original pad thai sauce (crushed peanuts are optional)

SWEET'N'SOUR BOX

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VEGGIE BOX

Market fresh Asian vegetables, broccoli and tofu all wok tossed in a sauce of your choice.

Add Spring Rolls and a drink for £2.20 when you buy any Noodle or Rice Box

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

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HOT & SOUR SOUP	£2.95
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SPRING ROLLS Chicken, mushroom, noodle, onion, cabbage, spring onion, carrot and bean sprout.	£3.70
VEGGIE SPRING ROLLS Mushroom, noodle, onion, cabbage, spring onion, carrot and bean sprout.	£3.50
PRAWN CRACKERS	£1.70
FRIED RICE	£3.50
EXTRA SAUCE	75p

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CHIPS, CURRY, FRIED RICE	Small £2.20 Large £2.90
FRIED RICE, SALT & PEPPER CHIPS	£2.70
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Pie Dinner	£3.50
Fish Dinner	*Sml* £4.50 *Lrg* £5.50
Scallops (5)	£1.20
Chip Barm	£1.25
Barm Cake	45p
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Rail chiefs agree to independent scrutiny of train travel chaos

Report by **Henry James**

NETWORK Rail and Northern are to commission an independent report and recommendations into the 'preparations and processes' leading up to the implementation of the recent controversial timetable changes which have resulted in chaos for passengers.

Customer groups and transport and Northern stakeholders will be invited to contribute to the report.

Since the introduction of the new timetable on Sunday, May 20, passengers have faced a deluge of delays and cancellations, as well as overcrowding.

It's claimed the timetable change, the biggest in decades, is designed to boost capacity with better trains and more services in the long-term. However, more immediately it has delivered a service that is not acceptable.

Rail chiefs say the multi-billion pound investment plan in the north will mean improved connections, shorter journey times, larger and better trains and more comfortable journeys. And, they add, there will be more frequent trains delivered through track and train upgrades as part of the Great North Rail Project.

David Brown, managing director of Northern

This is in addition to measures announced to tackle the current disruption.

Martin Frobisher, managing director for Network Rail's London North Western route, said: "We recognise how tough it has been for customers, particularly since the timetable change we're sorry for that. We are working hard with Northern to get service back to where it needs to be. We will work as one team to achieve this.

"The independent report will ensure lessons are learned and that there are no repeats of current problems as we prepare for the next major timetable change in December."

David Brown, managing director of Northern, said: "We are doing everything we can to minimise cancellations and delays and keep our customers informed. It has been difficult for many of our customers and I am truly sorry for this.

"There is urgent work to do to fully understand what did and didn't work on all aspects of planning and delivery of the new timetable.

"We are committed to working with Network Rail and Northern stakeholders to deliver the services our customers expect and deserve."

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*on selected models

Last chance to have a say in national rural crime survey

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, is calling on rural communities across the county to have their say before the National Rural Crime Survey closes on Sunday

LANCASHIRE's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, is urging rural communities across the county to have their say before the National Rural Crime Survey closes on Sunday, June 10.

The survey will help shape national policy on rural crime, as well as providing local police forces with the public's view of crime and anti-social behaviour in local areas.

With previous surveys suggesting that rural crime is under-reported, this year will look at understanding why this has been the case and how to increase the reporting of crimes in rural areas.

In Lancashire residents will also be asked about ways they would like to see the police interact with them and help keep their communities safe.

Mr Grunshaw said: "It's important that the voice of Lancashire's rural communities is heard at the highest levels. Lancashire Police have supported a number of great initiatives in rural areas but this needs to be a national priority.

"If you live, work or run a business in the rural areas across our county I hope you'll take a few minutes to complete the survey and share your views. Every response will help strengthen Lancashire's voice on this issue helping us to push it up the national agenda."

The survey is run through the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) which is made up of 28 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Other members of the network include police forces and other organisations with links to rural issues.

NRCN chair, Julia Mulligan, added: "The aim of the National Rural Crime Network is to see greater recognition and understanding of the problems and impact of crime in rural communities so more can be done to help them be safe and feel safe.

"In order to achieve that, we need to know the true picture of crime and anti-social behaviour that residents and businesses face."

The survey is available until Sunday, June 10 at http://www.nationalruralcrime-network.net/survey.

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People of all ages and abilities take part in the weekly parkrun event.

Parkrun initiative to mark 70th birthday of NHS

Report by **Kenny Parker**

PARTICIPANTS at this week's Ormskirk Parkrun are being invited to dress up as doctors, nurses or health care staff to celebrate 70 years of the NHS.

The event, at Edge Hill University, will be one of hundreds of parkruns around the UK to host special birthday celebrations for the health service on Saturday, June 9.

The initiative, known as 'parkrun for the NHS,' aims to recognise the contribution of the NHS to the health of the nation and inspire people to take part in physical activity and volunteering.

Ormskirk parkrun is a free 5k event that takes place every Saturday morning at 9am. It is open to walkers and runners of all ages and abilities and is co-ordinated entirely by volunteers from the local community.

Friendly

Run director, Anna Hulme, said: "We would love to see as many NHS staff as possible on the day, to walk, jog, run and volunteer or simply receive a well-earned round of applause for the incredible contribution they make to our community.

"Ormskirk parkrun is a friendly, welcoming event that provides a perfect opportunity to get out in the fresh air to socialise and be physically active in a supportive environment."

The 'parkrun for the NHS' initiative is being supported by double Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes, a regular parkrunner who worked as a nursing assistant before going into the British Army and later becoming a full-time athlete.

She said: "Increased levels of activity leads to improved mood, self-esteem and a wide range of health benefits. I know from first-hand experience how sociable and welcoming parkruns are, so it's fantastic to see it join forces with the NHS in its 70th year to encourage even more people to get active in this special year."

The growing levels of obesity in adults and children is a major health issue for the NHS, as it can lead to a number of serious and potentially life-threatening conditions, such as type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, some types of cancer and stroke. Obesity can also affect quality of life and lead to psychological problems.

The cost to the NHS of treating diabetes alone is around £10 billion every year - nearly 10% of the NHS budget. It is estimated that obesity is responsible for more than 30,000 deaths each year and that obesity could overtake tobacco smoking as the biggest cause of preventable death.

In August 2017, parkrun conducted a UK-wide survey of almost 2,000 healthcare professionals. More than three in every five (63%) responding revealed that they prescribe parkrun in some form, while almost nine in ten (88%) said they would consider referring users to parkrun.

For more information about the Ormskirk parkrun celebration contact ormskirkhelpers@parkrun.com.

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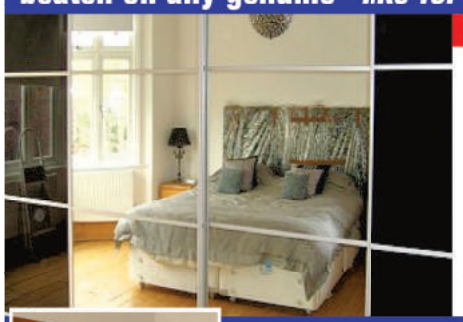

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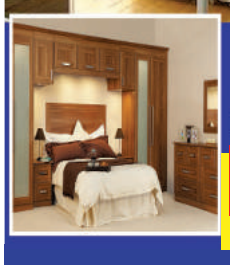

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Parties row over county council's response to Northern Rail problems

Report by **Henry James**

THE Labour group on Lancashire County Council have accused the Conservative-led authority of failing to fulfil its responsibilities to rail users in the county.

However, council leader, County Councillor Geoff Driver, refuted the claim and said the administration had been part of the process of holding Northern Rail to account over the problems.

County Councillor Erica Lewis, Labour's shadow cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "This week we have seen chaos on Lancashire's railways. Thousands of trains late or cancelled and an untold number of passengers stranded and made late.

"Given the scale of the problem and its impact on local people and businesses it seems strange that Lancashire County Council has been silent on this issue. Perhaps the current administration hadn't fully realised its responsibilities for rail.

"The management of the Northern Rail franchise is shared between Transport for the North and the Government. Throughout the period of development of the new timetables Lancashire County Council had a seat on the board of Rail North but didn't take it up. Lancashire County Council has a seat on the board of Transport for the North, but they haven't spoken out.

County Councillor Erica Lewis

County Councillor Geoff Driver

"Rail is a vital form of transport, and it appears that in among the council's pothole crisis it has failed to pay attention to rail. Lancashire's rail users will rightly wonder why the current Conservative administration failed to take every opportunity to ensure vital services were protected and to hold Northern accountable for the misery it has caused Lancashire's rail passengers."

County Councillor Driver responded: "Not for the first time, County Councillor Lewis has her facts wrong. Unlike the previous Labour administration, this Conservative administration has played an active part in TfN right from its inception in shadow form and has been part of the process of holding Northern Rail to account for the wholly unacceptable chaos following the introduction of the new timetables and agreeing targets to resolve the problems.

"It is a great pity but sadly a fact that County Councillor Lewis and her Labour colleagues are more concerned with showboating than helping to improve services for the people of Lancashire."

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Some balance needed in debate about Lathom solar farm plan

I SHOULD like to add some balance to the debate about the proposed Lathom solar farm.

I live in Ormskirk but cycle through Lathom every day and I have no concerns about the installation. Lathom is a historical site but so is the whole of the UK, having been continuously inhabited for thousands of years since the last Ice Age.

If you build anything, anywhere in this country you will find something historical. What little remains of the WW1 Remount Station will not in any way be damaged by the minimal structures required to support the solar array, which at the end of life of the solar farm will be removed leaving no trace.

During the operation of the solar farm it will be silently generating green energy day after day without any detrimental effects, with no emissions or wastes and no use of pesticides or herbicides.

If anything, the lightly-grazed grass around the panels will be of far higher wildlife value than the chemically fertilised, rye-grass monoculture that currently dominates this part of Lathom.

As for the argument that this development will 'dishonour the graves' of brave war horses, let us remember that before the solar farm was proposed, the history of the Remount Station was very low profile and there were certainly no monuments or cenotaphs to these long-dead animals.

In this respect, the solar farm has helped us remember the sacrifice of the war. Perhaps Lightsource could put up an information board at the entrance of their solar farm informing people about this interesting local history.

Of course, if this solar farm is rejected we can fall back on plenty of other sources of energy - fracking gas for example; or perhaps we should open-cast the coal that lies under the Lathom area? Does anyone seriously prefer these kind of options?

Our modern economy needs energy and NSG should be supported in its efforts to showcase the best available green energy technology.

The solar panels will be made using NSG glass, manufactured with the expertise of the technical staff at NSG Lathom, a very important local employer.

I should know, I work there.

Tim Smith, Ormskirk

Appalling installation will ruin our heritage

HOW dare Pilkingtons (NSG Group) think they can ruin Lathom's heritage with this appalling solar farm? We totally agree with the letter in the Champion (May 23).

Pilkingtons have vast grounds, large areas of 'recreational' spaces according to the developer. Let them put the solar panels there, the workers can then meander around the solar panels.

One of the supporting comments states: 'The Lathom site generates huge amounts of carbon emissions which enter the local environment'; that is quite disturbing to residents. The company do nothing for the community (except pollute the atmosphere according to a supporter).

There is no guarantee that this company will still be at Lathom in 30 years time, the lifetime of the plasma TV screen lookalikes. Large companies close down at the drop of a hat.

No one benefits from this abomination except NSG/Pilkingtons and Lightsource the developer.

Lightsource have a mission statement 'we are entrepreneurs going to be millionaires' that sums them up - let's trash the countryside, ruin the green belt, ruin a site steeped in history and leave the plasma TV screens there for 30 years and we'll sit back and rake in the profits. They should all be ashamed.

Mr Sharman, Newburgh

PICTURE of the week

Local song and dance performers get in on the action as Southport's Hesketh Park becomes one of the locations for a new feature length musical *Perfectly Frank* which is being filmed over the coming months around town. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ **PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.**

Why should we volunteer to do jobs that should be done by paid employees funded by council tax?

I WAS enraged to see the article (Champion, May 23) in which County Councillor Albert Atkinson was telling us all how important it would be to volunteer to improve the area you live in. Will he be doing it?

I agree it all sounds good on paper and it certainly needs doing, but hold on, we pay our taxes to have a well looked-after town along with employed locals to do it.

I keep on writing to get the park duck pond cleaned; I'm ashamed of the condition of roads and traffic islands; I have to walk my little boy on pavements overgrown in weeds, including nettles.

We already pay for this service and it's not being done - probably because people in local authorities are busy investing in student housing rather than building a campus at Edge Hill.

It's no surprise there is not enough council tax to spend and authorities look elsewhere to get the job done. Many times volunteers have covered for the workers' pay they think it fine to save on, e.g. the Ormskirk spring clean.

Did you know that Edge Hill students were approached about this but not a single one helped? Why would they because they don't actually live here?

Because of a lack of policing this town is no longer safe and it won't take too long for housing prices to go back down.

Cllr. Atkinson and his colleagues have the face to ask for volunteers while laughing at those stupid enough to fall for this. Our council tax pays for workers to get a wage doing these jobs.

J.I. by email

It's time to make opposition to privatisation of our NHS known

I ATTENDED and submitted questions to the recent board meeting of West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

One of my questions was: 'Have Virgin Care subcontracted part of their £65m contract (for out of hours GP Services) to another organisation?'

This was answered as follows: 'Virgin Care Service Ltd (VC) have always sub-contracted Out of Hour GP services. From the inception of the contract Virgin Care Services Ltd subcontracted this service to OWLs CIC Ltd. However, early this year OWLs CIC Ltd gave notice on this contract. VC now have a subcontractor Vocare Ltd who commenced providing services on 1 May 2018. Further information is available on the CCG's website: http://www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk/new-providers-for-gp-out-of-hours-service-announced/.

Who knew that Virgin Care had subcontracted part of the £65m contract right from the outset? And who knew they changed the subcontractor last month?

Is anyone in charge here?

Subcontracting never works. The subcontracting company skims funds off the top for profits to keep shareholders happy, thereby reducing the service that the general public have paid for.

This business model will never give a better service to patients. It only provides income for shareholders and directors. And Virgin Care are based in an offshore tax haven.

I urge everyone to attend these public meetings, hold our CCG to account and make your opposition to the privatisation of our NHS known in the strongest possible terms.

Ron Cooper, Skelmersdale

Perplexed about plastic recycling

OUR council seem so keen on recycling but have you noticed that they don't tell you exactly what sort of plastic they can use?

I have enquired but all I received was a photocopy sheet showing a general list of plastics which might, or might not, be recycled. That wasn't much use, was it?

My own feeling is that the council haven't a clue, and are just trying to look good.

If they don't make it easier for me why should I bother?

So, can anyone nudge 'that lot' into telling us what they actually use?

From a rather perplexed resident.

C. Henderson, Ormskirk

College's creative students team up for an evening of culture and entertainment

Report by **Henry James**

West Lancashire College's Art & Design and Performing Arts departments have joined together to provide an evening of creativity, and entertainment

STUDENTS from West Lancashire College's Art & Design and Performing Arts departments are teaming up to provide an evening of creativity, entertainment and culture.

The event, on Thursday, June 14, will be staged at the college's Skelmersdale campus and local residents are invited to attend.

The art department's Creative Arts exhibition will be open free to the public on the evening and there will be an opportunity to view outstanding artworks created by the students in a wide range of media, including photography, fashion, graphics, fine art, architecture, illustration and printmaking.

The exhibition will be open from 5 to 7pm and visitors can then make their way to the college's Hope Theatre to see a performance of the hit musical, *The Addams Family Young@Part*, performed by the college's awarding-winning Performing Arts students.

Course leader, Gary Owens, said: "As a life-long resident of Skelmersdale I know that people often feel there is little to do or see in the town, which is why we decided to produce this combined evening of art and entertainment.

"We know that Skelmersdale is full of creative talent and interest and we hope that visitors will be keen to go to either or both of the events held on the evening to experience the spectacular work of our students."

Tickets for the *Addams Family Young@Part* performance, priced £5, can be purchased online from www.seaty.co.uk/wlcpa using the password 'westlancs,' or on the door, subject to availability.

For anyone interested who can't attend the June 14 event, the Creative Arts exhibition is also open free to the public from 10am to 4pm on Friday, June 15, Monday, June 18 and Tuesday, June 19.

The *Addams Family Young@Part* show will also be performed on Friday, June 15 at 7pm.

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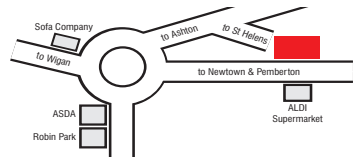

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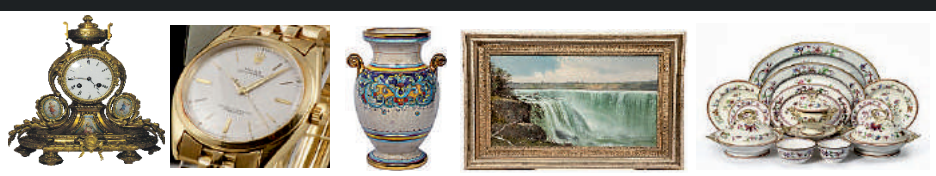

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Chance to learn more about adopting a child

No need to book for county council information event

LANCASHIRE County Council is once again asking people to think about growing their family through adoption.

The authority is staging another of its information events for people considering adoption to be held at County Hall in Preston from 6 to 7.30pm on Tuesday, June 12.

There's no need to book, you can just turn up, but early arrival is recommended so that the presentation can start promptly at 6pm. People attending are also asked to stay for the whole session.

The council is focussing on two different types of adoption.

Best for Baby (concurrent placements) place babies and young children, aged up to two, with foster carers who may go on to give them a permanent home.

Better Beginnings (the fostering-for-adoption scheme) is for children where there is no realistic prospect of a return to their birth family.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We're looking for people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"What matters to us are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home, where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond.

County Councillor Susie Charles

"More children in Lancashire are benefiting from being placed with their adoptive families earlier, thanks to these programmes.

"Sometimes babies come into our care at birth or soon after and they're looked after by foster carers, while we work with their parents to see if they can go home.

"If this isn't possible, the court process can take many months, and after that the baby usually has to move again, to their adoptive parents."

Best for Baby (concurrent placements) place a baby or child straight away with their prospective adopters, who are also approved as foster carers, while the birth family is assessed and the court makes a decision.

Cllr. Charles added: "Best for Baby placements mean that there's some degree of uncertainty for the adopters, because there is always a small chance the child might go home.

"If the adults can take on this uncertainty, the baby will have the chance of a more secure start in life. If they are adopted, they'll have been with their adoptive family for much longer."

Better Beginnings (foster-for-adoption) carers are approved as temporary foster carers, but are prepared to adopt the child if it is eventually decided that they can't return to their birth family.

Arrangements through the Better Beginnings scheme can give children continuous care in the home that they may settle in permanently, rather than spending months with other foster carers first. They also give the added benefit of allowing them to bond with their new family at an earlier age.

This scheme has been encouraged by the Government over the last two years, across the country, as part of reforms to speed up the adoption process.

To adopt, people must be more than 21 and live in Lancashire or close by, whatever their race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status.

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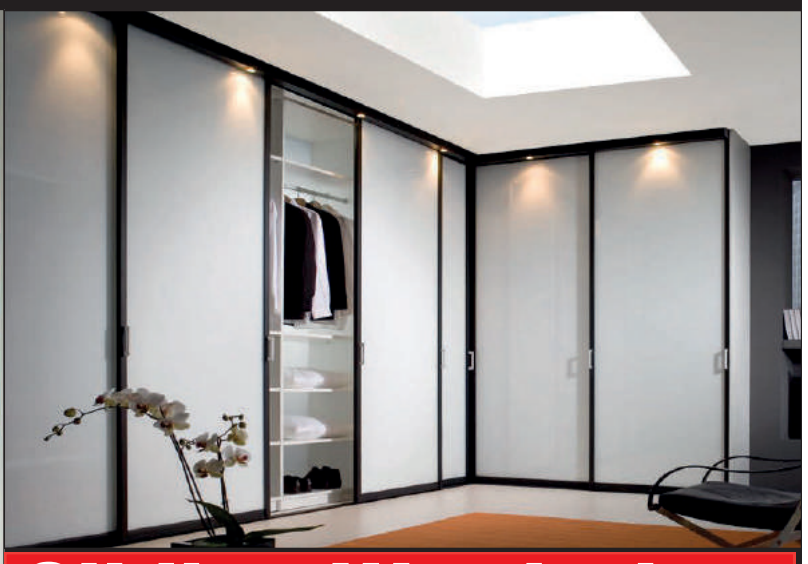

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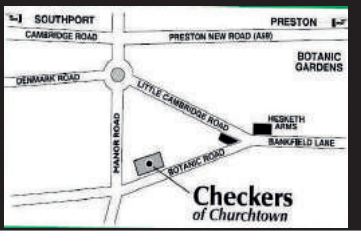

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Campaign aims to stress importance of child safety

HEALTH professionals from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust are urging parents, carers and teachers to shed light on the importance of child safety, both on the roads and at home, during Child Safety Week (June 4 to 10).

The theme of the week is 'Safe Children: together we've got this!' and communities are being called on to play their part by sharing practical experience and knowledge.

Accidents in a range of settings at home, when playing and on the roads are a leading cause of death, serious injury and disability for children and young people in the UK. They account for three deaths every week and more than 2,000 hospital admissions.

Katie Bretherton, school nurse at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Communities, health workers, families, teachers and professionals from a range of backgrounds can all play a positive role in helping families and children become more aware of safety within and outside the home.

Example

"Almost one in six children suffer an accident or near miss, like stepping out onto the road without looking, while on their own mobile phones.

"Adults could set a good example to their children by never using their phones while crossing the road.

"Aside from that, there's a whole range of scenarios just within the home in which children could choke, get scalded or burnt, fall ill having swallowed something harmful, or fall and hurt themselves.

"Practicing and talking about safety could encourage and prepare families and children to be more conscious and aware of how to remain safe. This is something that our school nurses and health visitors are repeatedly conveying."

On average, six children under the age of five are killed or seriously injured on British roads every week. In 2014 alone, 187 children aged four and under were killed or seriously injured while on foot in the UK, while some 85 cyclists aged eight to 11 were killed or seriously injured.

Residents invited to join Virgin Care Citizens' Panel

VIRGIN Care, the private sector provider delivering community and urgent care NHS services in West Lancashire, is encouraging locals to sign up to its Citizens' Panel.

The panel is a group of people who want to be informed, asked and involved in delivering the 'transformation' of services as Virgin gears up to mark its first full year in the role.

The NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)commissioned Virgin Care to deliver community and urgent care services with a set of transformations which would aim to improve outcomes and reduce hospital admissions, ultimately making it easier to access community services and GPs.

These included introducing mobile working technology to allow nurses to spend more time with patients and less time travelling to and from work.

Anyone registered with a West Lancashire GP can join the Citizens' Panel online at http://westlancscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/or by contacting Virgin Care on 0300 303 1950.

A spokesman for Virgin Care said: "Citizens' Panel members are informed, asked and involved about the progress of the transformation programme through surveys, meetings, workshops and events. Members' events are planned to introduce the plan for delivering the transformation programme for the second year."

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So what are the tell-tale signs that we should look out for? The usual ones are things like having the TV turned up so loud that others find it uncomfortable and keep asking you to turn it down, or you having to ask people to repeat themselves frequently and thinking that people are mumbling a lot, particularly in noisy pubs or restaurants.

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Opticians' warning to put safety before style when it comes to buying sunglasses

WHETHER you're 'staycationing' or heading abroad this summer, bosses at a leading opticians are warning sun-seekers about the dangers of sunglasses that don't provide adequate UV protection.

At this time of year, many specs wearers will buy sunglasses to shield their eyes and while the increased hours of sun does mean the risk of UV damage is higher, many are unaware of the consumer symbols they should be looking out for.

Excessive UV exposure, over a period of time, can cause or accelerate the development of cataracts or macular degeneration, which is the leading cause of blindness in later life.

It can also cause unhealthy and permanent changes to the front of the eye which are cosmetically undesirable.

And while most people are aware of the effect of sun damage to their skin, many don't consider the potential impact on their eyes.

Neil Pearson, director at Specsavers Ormskirk and Maghull, says: 'When the sun comes out many people worry about protecting their skin from the sun while forgetting that sunlight can also be a source of irrevocable damage to the eyes.

"Many available sunglasses on the high-street are built with style rather than safety in mind. Sunglasses should bear the CE kite mark and offer 99/100 per cent UV protection, which is indicated on labelling with the mark UV-400.

"The tint, darkness and even the price do not necessarily promise adequate protection to your eyes without those markings.

"Some dark-tinted throwaway-fashionable sunglasses can potentially threaten the safety of your eyes more than no sunglasses at all, as they encourage your eyes to widen, letting in more light and more damaging UV rays over time.

"I would also strongly advise parents to make sure that their children are wearing the correct CE and UV-400 marked sunglasses."

Countdown to village Scarecrow Festival

SOME unusual characters are popping up again in the countdown to the start of this year's Halsall Scarecrow Festival.

On parade so far are a chef, Elvis Presley, a golfer and some pigs! And more are expected leading up to the Scarecrow Treasure Hunt Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, June 16 and 17.

The hunt will take participants around the village seeking the answers to questions all about the scarecrows. Entry forms are £3 and are available from St Cuthbert's Church, Halsall between 2 and 5pm on both days. All entries - completed or not - will be entered into a prize draw.

Proceeds will go to the Halsall Proud and Tidy Group. For further information visit the group's Facebook page.

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR READERS THINK?
See this week's letters on page 16

New county council chair brings variety of experience to role

LANCASHIRE County Council has appointed a new chairman in County Councillor Anne Cheetham who brings a wide range of experience to the role - including serving tea at Strangeways prison and meeting the world's first female Prime Minister!

County Councillor Cheetham, who was appointed at the authority's annual meeting, was born in Southport but her family moved when she was young to Deepcut Army Barracks in Surrey in a civilian posting, starting a journey to many countries around the world.

Anne started her career with Vickers Armstrong Aircraft in Weybridge and then proceeded to the Commissioner's Office in Sri Lanka, where she met some of the best-known world leaders in the 1960s, including the world's first female Prime Minister, Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Indira Gandhi, the first female Prime Minister of India.

A retired magistrate, Anne served on the bench for 29 years dealing with thousands of cases.

Along with her late husband, Jeffrey, she also fostered 24 children and this is a hugely important issue to Anne, who is keen to raise awareness of fostering and adoption during her year as chairman.

Anne, who has two grown-up children and an 18-month-old granddaughter, received an MBE from Her Majesty the Queen and an OBE from Prince Charles for her fostering work.

Helping other people is a key aim for Anne, who previously volunteered with the Women's Voluntary Service at local hospitals and Meals on Wheels services, as well as serving tea to visitors at Strangeways prison in Manchester.

She also worked as an area appeals organiser for the Cancer Research Campaign and having lost Jeffrey to cancer in 2007, this remains an important cause to her.

New chairman of Lancashire County Council, County Councillor Anne Cheetham

Anne has just served as vice-chairman to Skelmersdale County Councillor Terry Aldridge during his year in office, while the county council's new vice-chairman will be County Councillor Paul Rigby, who represents Fylde South.

She added: "Having spent the past year working alongside Terry Aldridge, on behalf of Lancashire I'd like to thank him for all of his work. I'm looking forward to working with Paul to highlight the many wonderful things in our county and raise awareness of important issues that affect people's daily lives."

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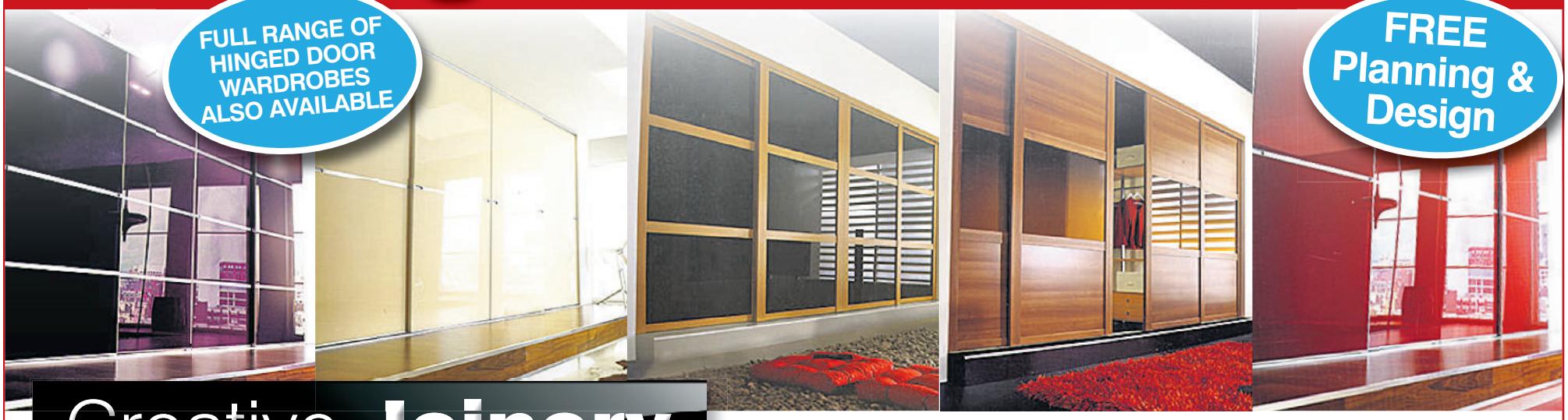

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WIN! tickets to see The Miracle of Great Homer Street at the Royal Court

...and enjoy a meal for four before the show!

LES DENNIS and Andrew Schofield are teaming up in a brand new comedy play this summer at Liverpool's Royal Court.

And the Champion is able to offer one reader the chance to not only see the new production with family or friends, but also enjoy the Royal Court's unique offering of dinner for four in the stalls - before the show starts!

The Miracle Of Great Homer Street by Gerry Linford was a runner-up in last year's Hope Playwriting Prize, for which two of the judging panel were Les Dennis and Royal Court Executive Producer, Kevin Fearon.

The comedy is based in Liverpool in 1978. The World Cup is on and Father Aherne, who likes a bet, is on a winning streak. It's as if he's getting help from above. His luck doesn't stretch to accommodation as he finds himself without a roof over his head. His prayers are quickly answered when Marion, one of his parishioners, is delighted to offer him her spare room. Terry, her non-believing husband, is not so keen.

Over the summer, the two men bond when the beautiful game seems to be going in their favour but will they triumph when the final whistle blows?

Gerry Linford's brand new comedy about family, friendship and having a flutter proves it's really 'the odds' that move in mysterious ways!

Les Dennis and Andrew Schofield are joined by Jake Abraham, Katie King, Cath Rice and Bobby Schofield in the cast. The show is directed by Royal Court regular Bob Eaton.

Bobby Schofield has recently finished a run in the TV show *Knightfall* and appeared in the film *Black Sea* alongside Jude Law. This will be the first time that he has appeared alongside his father, Andrew, in a stage show.

Les Dennis stars in *The Miracle of Great Homer Street* at the Royal Court

Les Dennis said: "The characters are so well written, the story is one that will immediately appeal and the sense of period will strike a chord with Royal Court regulars. Its themes of football, faith and Scouse culture in the 70s are at the core of this comedy with a heart."

The Miracle Of Great Homer Street runs from June 1 to June 30, 2018. Tickets and information are available from www.royalcourtliverpool.com or on 0151 709 4321.

To win this brilliant prize, simply answer the following question and send your answer on a postcard to Royal Court Competition, The Champion, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA.

Q: In what year is The Miracle of Great Homer Street set?

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Care trust staff to mark 70th birthday of NHS with county-wide events

Celebrations planned to salute achievements of one of nation's most cherished institutions

Report by **Henry James**

STAFF at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust are set to mark the 70th birthday of the NHS with a series of events to celebrate the achievements of one of the nation's most loved institutions.

The service was launched on July 15, 1948, by the then Health Secretary, Aneurin Bevan, at Park Hospital in Manchester (known today as Trafford General Hospital).

For the first time, hospitals, doctors, nurses, mental health practitioners, psychiatrists, pharmacists, opticians and dentists were brought together under one umbrella to provide services for free at the point of delivery.

70 years on, the NHS in England today treats more than 1.4 million patients every 24 hours and is one of the largest employers in the world.

Julie Seed, deputy director of Nursing at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: "Over the last 70 years, the NHS has transformed the health and wellbeing of the nation to become the envy of the world, and delivered huge medical advances and improvements to public health, meaning we can all expect to live longer lives.

Julie Seed, deputy director of nursing at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

"It is thanks to the NHS that we have all but eradicated diseases such as polio and diphtheria, and pioneered new treatments like the world's first liver, heart and lung transplant, not to mention the giant leaps we've taken in looking after the nation's mental health and psychological wellbeing.

Heroes

"The NHS plays a vital role in our lives, and NHS 70 recognises and thanks the extraordinary NHS staff, the everyday heroes, both clinical and non-clinical, who are there to guide, support and care for us, day in, day out.

"It is these people who are there at hand to provide quality healthcare at the right time and place."

Staff and teams across Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust will hold celebratory events at clinics and health centres for staff and members of the public on July 5.

The anniversary is also being marked on social media with members of the public welcome to join the conversation using the hashtag #NHS70.

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My Tina's new 'trick' disproves the old adage

YOU can't teach an old dog new tricks, or so it's said. A load of old tut of course, as any dog lover will tell you.

Actually, it's probably more true that you might well find it more difficult to teach an old(er) man or woman tricks, as I found during the recent spell of hot weather.

Before I explain, I ought to tell you that I only realised this week that my collie, Tina, is nine years old and even 'little' Cinders is six. Happily (and I'm touching wood as I tap this out) Tina is still fit, strong and nimble and still the boss when it comes to the occasional disagreement in the canine part of the family group, while I could readily believe that Cinders is about six months!

But back to the question of new tricks.

Over all of her nine years, Tina has always slept in my bedroom - either in her dedicated basket, on the spare bed, by the door or beside my bed, as the mood takes her.

I must confess that I gave up nightly prayers for myself some time ago, but because I do have a belief in God despite this and I have always said a little prayer for Tina (just in case). And over what I now know to be the last nine years, Tina has always done the same for evening prayers. As soon as I switch off the light she comes and stands by my bed with her head adjacent to mine. Then she removes to whichever sleeping spot she has designated, often moving through most if not all of them in the course of the night.

But what she never, ever does is leave my room, even if I pop out to the bathroom; or if she does is straight back in when I return. Until this week.

All the usual rituals had been performed and all was normal. Until I did indeed pop off down the landing and Tina 'escaped' and was to be found lying beside the front door and most unwilling to return to her post.

I must confess, in all seriousness, that I was more than a little upset by this. For the first time in nine years I had apparently been 'abandoned.' So for the following night or two I made sure she stayed in her rightful place, with me.

Until the penny dropped! Hot air rises, one of the few facts I remember from my now far-off physics lessons. The simple fact was that it was a good deal hotter in my bedroom than it was in the comparative cool draughtiness of the front door. And unlike me, Tina can't take off her hair coat at bedtime.

So I tried an experiment. Instead of shutting my bedroom door, I left it ajar. And guess what? Good old Tina certainly padded off to the cooler, lower air but came back several times to check up on me with her black nose or rather too sharp claws.

Tina also has another upstairs trick - or habit if you will - which concerns the bathroom. She has always disliked slippery floors - like polished wood or simple lino - yet from the off has doggedly accompanied me when I take a bath. If I tell her at evening prayers that it's bath time in the morning, as soon as I get out of bed she's off to the bathroom, scurrying into her place behind the door, where she remains stolidly until I am bathed, dressed and ready to face the world. Then she scoots round the door and precedes me downstairs and out into the back garden.

Incidentally, while all this is going on, Cinders is still quietly in her own 'bedroom' - my late brother George's room. I did experiment with letting her into the bathroom, but this resulted in an Andrex puppy-style of toilet paper explosion and neatly laid-out clothing all over the floor, since when I have adopted a 'let sleeping Cinders lie' policy.

One new trick I wish I could instill in them both though is shutting doors behind them - but no luck so far!

Footy ace Jess helps county to double triumph

A TALENTED young footballer from West Lancashire has played a key role in a double triumph for the county's girls under-14s side.

Jess Hodge from Ormskirk was an ever-present member of the Lancashire team which won the Northern Counties League Cup, crowning their triumph with a 3-0 victory over Durham.

And the 14-year-old, a pupil at St Bede's Catholic High School in St Anne's Road, who is equally at home at left back or on the left side of central defence, went on to help the team to further glory in the English Schools Football Association National Cup.

In the final, staged at Stoke City's stadium, Lancashire scored an emphatic 4-0 win against Kent.

Above: Jess with the English Schools FA National Cup. Right: In Northern Counties Schools action against Durham

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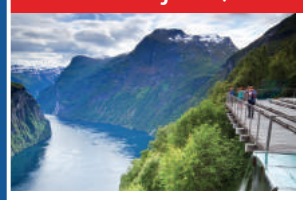

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Friendship group walk in aid of heart charity

THE Ormskirk & Southport district branch of the Oddfellows Society, which aims to promote friendship in the two towns and surrounding areas, are aiming to raise funds and awareness for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) with their Healthy Heart Walk on Monday, June 25.

Judith Catton, social events organiser for the branch, said: "We want to play our part in helping people understand how small lifestyle changes can make a big difference to heart and general health, such as taking 10 minutes' exercise daily, giving up smoking and eating a balanced diet.

"We couldn't be prouder to back the brilliant work of the British Heart Foundation and invite anyone in the area who has been affected by cardiovascular disease, or who wants to show their support of the charity's work, to come along and join us.

"Our Healthy Heart event raised more than £200 for the charity last year which we're hoping to better."

The walk will start and finish at the Vivesco Café, Christ Church on Lord Street and take in a couple of 'gentle' miles around the Marine Lake and the Promenade. Participants can meet up for a cuppa at the café from 10am before setting out at about 10.30am.

For more information email Judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk or ring 01704 545279.

Long list announced for annual Edge Hill Short Story Prize

THE 15-strong 'long list' for Edge Hill University's 12th annual Short Story Prize, the only prize for short story collections in the UK, has been announced, and includes award-winning authors James Kelman, Sarah Hall and Tessa Hadley.

Edge Hill's Creative Writing lecturer Billy Cowan who organised the short story competition.

Prize organiser, playwright and the university's creative writing lecturer Billy Cowan said: "This year's Edge Hill Prize long list includes an exciting mix of literary giants and newcomers like Eley Williams, David Hayden and Agnieska Dale.

"It also includes just as many small presses as large publishers and there's a healthy balance of male and female writers.

"Many of the books are debut collections and stories range from political satire and the uncanny, to SF and gritty social realism.

"It also seems to be the year of the fox with our little, urban scavenger popping up in many of the wonderful stories!"

The list in full is:

Kelly Creighton (Bank Holiday Hurricane); Agnieszka Dale (Fox Season); Lucy Durneen (Wild Gestures); Tessa Hadley (Bad Dreams); Sarah Hall (Madame Zero); M John Harrison (You Should Come With Me Now); David Hayden (Darker with the Lights On); James Kelman (That was a Shiver); Alison MacLeod (All the Beloved Ghosts); Sean O'Reilly (Levitation); Adam O'Riordan (The Burning Ground); Tom Rachman (Basket Of Deplorables); Leone Ross (Come Let us Sing Anyway); Nicholas Royle (Ornithology); and Eley Williams (Attrib).

The winner of the £10,000 prize will be announced at a special event in London in November.

The prize is the only UK-based award that recognises excellence in a published short story collection and will also include a £1,000 Reader's Choice award to a writer from the shortlist, and a further category for stories by Edge Hill University MA Creative Writing students.

The Edge Hill Short Story Prize was founded in 2006 by the world's first Professor of Short Fiction, Ailsa Cox, to highlight the intricate artisanship of short story writing and acknowledge the wealth of published collections available.

The 2017 prize was awarded to Daisy Johnson for Fen. The Readers' Choice winner was Lucy Caldwell for Multitudes.

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WWT

Martin Mere news

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Reedbed walk re-opens at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre

The popular reedbed walk has re-opened for the summer at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre, aimed at getting our visitors face to face with some of our more secretive species whilst also enjoying a walk through nature.

Reserve Manager, Tom Clare, said: "We opened up the Pat Wisniewski reedbed last year and we have had a great response from our visitors so we have decided to re-open it for the summer this year. This 20ha reedbed allows visitors to explore the area at their own speed through guided pathways. Having a more natural nature trail is something we have been wanting to do for a number of years and we are not surprised that it has been exceptionally popular with birdwatchers, photographers, walkers and anyone who enjoys being surrounded by wildlife and nature."

The reedbed is home to many species including Marsh Harriers, Mute Swans and Crested Grebes as well as an abundance of fauna, butterflies and dragonflies to look for.

Tom continues: "There are already plenty of reedbed specialist species present with Reed and Sedge warblers calling away, and some new species for the reserve Cetti's and Grasshopper warblers also present. However the most exciting aspect of opening up the reedbed will be what the visitors find, who knows what rare species might turn up and be spotted by our eagle eyed visitor."

The reedbed walk can be accessed via the Harrier Hide, simply go through the door under the stairs and follow the pathway to the left.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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Members of the 4th Parbold and Dalton Brownies at the *Energise* event

Local Brownies join in sporting extravaganza

MEMBERS of the 4th Parbold and Dalton Brownies joined more than 2,500 girls and young women from across Girlguiding North West England to enjoy a weekend of adventure and adrenalin when they converged on Stanley Park in Blackpool for the ultimate sporting event, Energise.

Girlguiding members aged from five to 25 rose to the challenge to try out exciting new sporting activities, such as BMX-cycling, American football and climbing.

The girls were excited to meet with newly-appointed Chief Guide, Amanda Medler, the charity's top volunteer, who joined in with the different activities.

Organised by Girlguiding North West England with support from Blackpool Council, the event aimed to encourage girls to get involved with sport. It follows a Girlguiding's Girls' Attitudes Survey highlighting a number of barriers to girls' participation in sport across the UK.

The research found that:

One in two girls aged seven to 21 say gender stereotypes affect what sport and exercise they do.

Two in five girls age 11 to 21 say fears of being judged on their appearance held them back from taking part in sport and exercise.

One in four girls age seven to -21 feel PE is more for boys than for girls.

Brown Owl Sandy Smith from the 4th Parbold & Dalton Brownies commented: "Our Brownies had a fabulous day enjoying and trying out so many different sporting activities. They were amazed to see how many Rainbows and Guides there are in our wonderful North West Region.

"If you would like to help more girls get involved with Guiding in the Parbold area we need more leaders and helpers so call me on 01257 463407."

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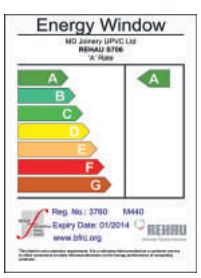

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Paul Le Marinel

Poet waxes lyrical about writers group

AN up and coming poet from Ormskirk has spoken of how being a member of Skelmersdale Writers Group has helped him.

Paul Le Marinel, 39, has been a member of the group for almost two months and it has had a positive impact on him.

He said: "I have been a member of the group for nearly two months and it has influenced me a lot with regards to approaches and methods of writing, while also having more of an open mind to not just write spiritual poems, but poems of different other aspects, such as nature and history.

"I have been a writer of poetry for six years, mainly writing within the genre of spiritual poetry, though in recent months my genres have expanded to animals, landscape and history type poems.

"When I visit a place, I observe everything I see, such as the environment that surrounds me, the atmosphere, what I experience, the sense of feeling, such things as that.

"I then write everything down and then begin writing new poems. I am now a more consistent writer than I used to be."

Paul has had his work published on local news sources and he has had a poem retained for consideration by The Evergreen magazine.

He added: "I would like to read out my poems and explain the context of them to people locally where possible, and to have them published through websites and magazines."

Young musicians hope to drum up support at Battle of the Bands!

FINALISTS have been chosen for the Battle of the Bands competition to take place at Ormskirk Civic Hall on Friday, June 22.

Organiser Sound Affects, which has a recording studio in Ormskirk and music shop in Aintree, says it received an incredible response from young musicians when it announced the contest earlier in the year.

The Champion featured the announcement in each of its West Lancs, Sefton and Liverpool newspapers. From the entrants, 13 bands have been selected to battle it out in two age categories, 7-11 and 12-17, with the top prize for both being a full day in the Sound Affects professional recording studio.

Though the audience will have opportunity to vote, the competition has a guest panel of expert music industry professional judges who will be making the final decision on the night.

Doors on the night will be open from 6:30pm with a 7pm start. Tickets are available from Sound Affects Music Studios in Ormskirk but can be reserved by emaiing events@soundaffectsmusic or by phoning 01695 580300.

Prices are £5 for adults (18+) and £3 for children (5 to 17).

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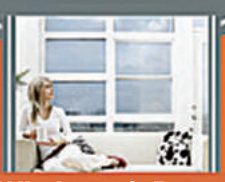
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Supermarket chain's grand boost for charity

OFFICIALS of West Lancs-based charity, Sporting Challenge are pleased to announce a funding award of £1,000 from the Morrison's Foundation.

The foundation is the charitable arm of the supermarket chain and supports charities which make a positive difference in local communities.

Since launching in 2015 it has donated more than £18m to help good causes across England, Scotland and Wales.

Sporting Challenge is a family-led charity which provides sporting activities for people with learning disabilities to help them keep fit and healthy.

They support around 52 people and provide transport to and from their homes and the appropriate session workers to support them whilst carrying out the activities.

Edward McCarthy, Sporting Challenge activities organiser, said: "On behalf of Sporting Challenge I wish to thank the Morrison's Foundation for this fantastic funding award. "It will make a huge difference and help us fund our short break to Castle Head Activities Centre later in the year.

"Our group really enjoyed a similar break last year.

"Our numbers are growing and our group really make a difference.

"Anyone wanting to know more about the group can get in touch by calling 07971 299606 or by email at EdwardatEMSS@gmail.com."

Members of Sporting Challenge enjoying one of the variety of sporting activities they provide for people with learning disabilities in West Lancashire.

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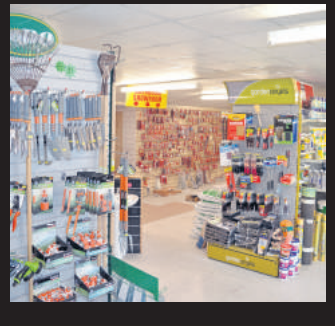

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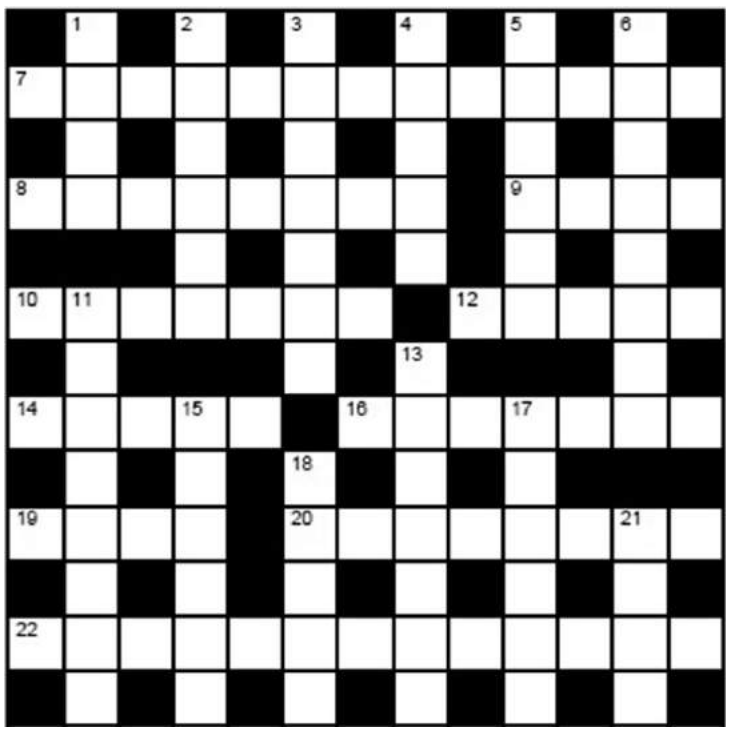

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Priory. 8. Occult. 9. Lava. 10. A la carte. 11. Seismic. 13. Ebony. 15. Dinar. 17. Coterie. 20. Dictator. 21. Cape. 22. Claret. 23. Averse.
Down: 1. Ornate. 2. Coma. 3. Pyramid. 4. Total. 5. Scramble. 6. Gluten. 12. Starters. 14. Doormat. 16. Icicle. 18. Impose. 19. State. 21. Crew.

ACROSS

7. A cinematographic film (6, 7)
8. The process of washing and dressing oneself (8)
9. Sound made by a pig (4)
10. Flower shop (7)
12. Planet nearest in size to the Earth (5)
14. Angry or bad-tempered expression (5)
16. Causing great horror of fear (7)
19. Jealousy (4)
20. Literally, really (8)
22. Person employed to protect a building against intruders or damage (8, 5)

DOWN

1. Mediocre (2, 2)
2. Lever used to turn the rudder of a boat (6)
3. Person who is excessively conceited (7)
4. Smallest unit of an image on a computer screen (5)
5. Caress (6)
6. Peaceful, calm (8)
11. Having official permission to do, have, or sell something (8)
13. Informal term for sleep (4-3)
15. Exit (3, 3)
17. Standing, rank (6)
18. The lowest point (5)
21. Skulk, loiter (4)

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Mawdesley Village Hall to host 'A Bunch of Amateurs'

MAWDESLEY Amateur Dramatics Society will be performing their annual play, which this year will be A Bunch of Amateurs written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

The play centres on washed-up Hollywood star Jefferson Steele (played by Finlay Robertson) who is flown to England to play the title role in King Lear at Stratford believing he will be appearing onstage at the legendary Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

Instead he finds he has been signed on with the Stratford Players in the Suffolk village of Stratford St John who are trying to save their theatre from developers.

He goes to England with his career deteriorating and having problems with his daughter, an aspiring actress herself.

The local villagers, a motley crew, are naturally delighted to have such a famous film star acting with them.

Steele's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic amdram thespians as he considers himself too big for this lowly setting.

As acting worlds collide and Steele's career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself – along with his inner Lear!

A Bunch of Amateurs will be performed at Mawdesley Village Hall on Thursday, June 14, Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £8 each available online at www.madsociety.co.uk or at the Spar in Mawdesley.

For more information, email mawdesley-drama@yahoo.co.uk.

Victor Michael on stage with The Sopranos. Picture by Ellen Campbell

A nostalgic Mario Lanza Story sends audience down memory lane!

Review by **Ron Ellis**

The Mario Lanza Story
Epstein Theatre, Liverpool

CHEERFUL compere, Keith McCarthy, opened the show with Al Martino's 'Here in My Heart', which became the first number one in the newly created hit parade in May 1952.

Popular local entertainer, Martin Gregory-Lambert, opened the show with a selection of numbers from the musicals, demonstrating a warm personality and sense of humour appreciated by many of his fans in the audience.

To close his act, Martin brought on stage his 12 year old daughter, Faye, with whom he reached the finals of Britain's Got Talent. They duetted in a moving version of 'Somewhere' from West Side Story, Faye showing a maturity beyond her years that augurs well for a highly successful singing career ahead of her.

Closing the first half was self-described wedding singer, James Franklin, well-known on the circuit, who had a nice turn in humour and sang a wide range of numbers from the 1950s and 60s including Solomon Burke's 'Cry to Me' and The Shirelles' 'Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow' plus a great version of Cab Calloway's 1931 hit, 'Minnie the Moocher'.

After the interval, Victor Michael took to the stage accompanied by a 7-piece orchestra and two glamorous sopranos, Lisa Davies and Hayley Bowen and proceeded to recount the life story of Mario Lanza, singing some of the songs from operas and musicals that had made the Italian a world-wide star, including 'Be My Love', his first hit in 1950, and a rousing version of 'The Drinking Song' from 'The Student Prince', which had the everyone in the theatre singing along lustily.

At the end of the show, which was in aid of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, the audience rose from their seats as one to applaud a great afternoon's entertainment.

Star Rating: 8 out of 10. Nostalgia at its best.

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Singers to mark end of World War One

EVERY year in June the Southport Lyric Singers present a concert in aid of a local charity or one with local connections.

This year to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 they will be supporting SSAFA – the Armed Forces Charity.

The Choir items in the first half of the concert will be linked by appropriate narrative and will include songs for audience participation.

The second half will begin with Happiness as a rousing tribute to the late Sir Ken Dodd and will go on to include many old favourites such as the music of Romberg. The concert will end with Let There Be Peace on Earth.

Edna Woodward, who conducted the Lyrics for 30 years, retired after Christmas. Her deputy for many years, Kath Etchells, has taken over and will conduct the concert.

The concert will take place on Friday, June 15 at Lord Street West Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 including refreshments in the hope that people will bring extra money for the raffle or to put an extra donation in the SSAFA collecting box.

Tickets are available from the Lyrics (01704 532123) or on the door.

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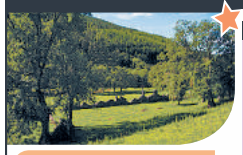

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AUG		
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FRI 17	THAT'LL BE THE DAY	7.30PM
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SAT 25	THE ILLEGAL EAGLES	7.30PM

SEPT		
FRI 07	HEATWAVE AND GWEN DICKEY	7.30PM
THU 13	ABBA FOREVER	7.30PM
FRI 14	ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN	7.30PM
WED 19	WE'LL MEET AGAIN FH*	2.30PM
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COMPUTING

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HOUSE AND HOME

OAK FURNITURELAND Solid oak extending dining table with 4 chairs. As new condition. £400. Please telephone for more info 07946492265

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HOUSE AND HOME

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DRESSING TABLE Light oak dressing table with 3 high gloss shiny draws good condition £40 07823884687

HOUSE AND HOME

CANE FURNITURE Double Seater Two Single Arm Chairs Dining Table Four Chairs Small & Larger Table Tall Cabinet Pouffe £300 will split 01704 878518

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MISC

MOBILE PHONE Samsung Genio 2 pink/black bluetooth/hands-free/camera and more locked to tesco. excellent condition £15 01704220356

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DARTBOARD NEW good quality one comes in wooden winmau cabinet some marks on front but inside immaculate £20 01515319425/07773242918

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MOBILITY SCOOTER Rascal Liteway 4 plus in good condition. Excellent model. Some minor scuffs. Viewing recommended. £300 ono 01695 578619

MOBILITY

MOBILITY SCOOTER 8 mph Invacare Comet in silver, little use, amazing condition. Basket, recent powerful batteries, charger, large seat with headrest, headlights, indicators, horn. Collection Southport or local delivery extra. Cost over2k. £625 07511244183

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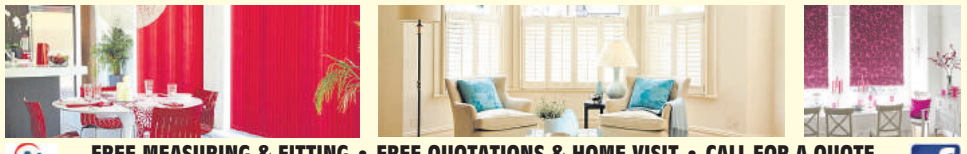
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AUSTIN MELVIN (MEV)

Neil Austin and family would like to thank all of Mev's family and friends for all their wonderful kind words, condolences, donations and for attending the funeral service at Halsall Church / reception at The Hop Vine on 29th May. Although Mev was a private man and did not like fuss, he would have greatly appreciated your kindness - which is a true testiment of the honest person he was. Mev is now at rest with his sadly missed Wife Marion. The family would like to also thank Southport & Formby General District Hospital who cared for Mev in his final days and the Reverend Paul Robinson for a beautiful service - memories from which they will treasure. Thanks are also expressed to Hunters of Ormskirk for the heartfelt compassion shown throughout this difficult time. Many, many thanks to you all.

IN MEMORIAM

CARLYLE JOHN PAUL

2nd June

Dad we miss you everyday.
Love always Daughter Bonnie, Partner Jay and Grandson Jason xx

CARLYLE JOHN PAUL

2nd June

Always in our hearts and minds missed everyday.
Love from all his family and friends xx

IN MEMORIAM

FLAHERTY AGNES (QUEENIE)

9th June 2017

In memory of Agnes Flaherty (Queenie) who passed away at the Birch Green Care Home in Skelmersdale on the 9th June 2017. Beloved Wife of Chris who died tragically on the 10th December 1977 and devoted Mother of Kevin. A very special thanks to all of the staff who cared for her at the Birch Green Care Centre. You did a marvelous job of looking after Agnes. May she rest in eternal heavenly peace.

MOONEY BRENDA

23.05.1944 - 02.06.2005

Though you're gone, you're never far away.
Loved and remembered every day.
Forever in our hearts.

Love forever
Husband George,
Sons Dean and Gary
x x x

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

MOON JEAN

Remembering you on your Birthday
11th June

You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You're always at our side.
Lots of love
Deborah, Jaz and Elliot
xxx

DEATHS

GODBOLD JOHN EDWARD (JACK)

May 29th 2018
Aged 80 years

Dearly loved Brother of Valerie and Elizabeth. Uncle to Scott, Glenn and Graeme. His gentle Finnish partner Maija-Liisa unfortunately died young at 62 years. Jack attended St Andrew's C of E Primary School and later Deyes Lane Secondary School where he excelled at sports. He joined the Merchant Navy at 16 years and travelled the world on White Star and Cunard Liners. In his later years he was a familiar sight in Maghull Parks walking his loyal Westie, Max.
Max died on the 4th May. Jack touched many lives with his acts of kindness and willing humour. He is already greatly missed by his extensive family, friends and neighbours. Funeral service and cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Friday June 22nd 2018 at 1:20pm.
Family flowers only please but donations, if desired for Carla Lane Animal Rescue c/o Graham J Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JB
Tel:0151 520 3330
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SMITH WALTER JOHN

5th May 2018

Beloved Husband of the late Christina. Much loved Father of Michael, Richard, Gary, Sharon, Tracey and much loved Grandfather and Great Grandfather. Walter will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Southport on Tuesday 12th June 2018 at 1.00pm, followed by Interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Flowers if desired and further enquires please to Moisters Funeral Directors, 25A Sefton Street. Southport PR8 6SG. Tel 01704 501 501.

DEATHS

HEAPS NORA ELAINE

Passed away on 31st May 2018 aged 77 years

Much loved Wife of Stuart, Mum of David and Michael, Mother-in-Law of Dawn and Sarah and Sister of Janet. Loving Nana of Holly, Luke and Charlie and a much loved Auntie. Nora will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place on Friday 8th June at 10am at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for The Alzheimer's Society. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

JOHNSON FIONA

30th May 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 59 years

Beloved partner of John, much loved mum of Zena and Terry, loving nanna of Declan, Zachary and Levi, and a dearly loved sister of Sandra, Barry and Ian.
'Fiona will be sadly missed by all her family and friends'.
Funeral service will take place at St. John's Crossens on Friday 15th June at 1:30pm, followed by the interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Rd, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118

DEATHS

DAVIES FRANCIS (FRANK)

29th May 2018
Peacefully at home
Aged 86 years

Devoted and loving Husband of Audrey, Dad to Steve (n) and Poppa to Sara and Sam. Service and cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Friday 8th June at 10.00am.
Family flowers only by request but donations if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o H. Leslie Humphreys. Funeral Directors, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool L23 5SE. Tel: 0151 924 4805

GILLAND THOMAS (TOMMY)

26th May 2018
Peacefully at Stocks Hall Nursing Home surrounded by all his loving family, aged 81 years

Loving Husband of Audrey, devoted Dad, cherished Grandad and Great Grandad of all his Grandchildren, dear Father-in-law and a friend to many. Funeral service will take place today Wednesday 6th June at West Lancashire Crematorium at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Stocks Hall Nursing Home, Burscough. No formal attire required. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel 01695 559868.

BROOKFIELD BARRY

Sadly passed away on 29th May 2018

Barry will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium Friday 8th June 11.30am.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Prostate Cancer UK.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone: 01772 811165

DEATHS

BARFIELD VAL

2nd June 2018
Peacefully at her home in Ormskirk
aged 75 years

The dearly loved Wife of Brian, loving Mum of Gary, dear Mother in law of Sarah and devoted Nana of Harrison and Gracie. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 12th June 2018 at 10:45am. No black to be worn by family request. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Clatterbridge Cancer Centre or Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman, H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick Tel: 01695 722122/720012

RUSHTON WILLIAM

25th May 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 92 Years

Much Loved Husband of Norma. Loved Dad of Lyn, John, Leslie and Kathryn. A Dear Father in Law, Grandad and Great Grandad. Funeral Service at Sefton Church on Friday 8th June at 10.30 Followed by Burial at Thornton Garden of Rest. Family Flowers only please but Donations if Desired for Jospice Thornton c/o Graham J Clegg Funeral Service 7, Dover Road Maghull L31 5JB. Tel 0151 520 3330

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

BIRTHDAYS

DAISY CARLYLE-RYAN

5th June 2018

Happy 18th Birthday

Happy Birthday Baby Girl

Love Always Mum XX

DAISY CARLYLE-RYAN

5th June 2018

Happy 18th Birthday

Our little Girl is 18! Love Grandma and all the Carlyle Carlyle Neve and Wright families x

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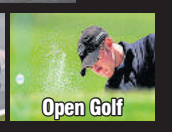

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For further details please see our website
www.woodlandshospice.org/vacancies
and if you require additional information please contact Ruth Garrett on
ruth.garrett@aintree.nhs.uk *or call on* **0151 529 8389**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0444/FUL Proposed garden room extension to rear at Parklands, 70 Liverpool Road, Rufford.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0464/FUL Residential development (38 units) at Land To The West Of, Red Cat Lane, Burscough.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
2018/0466/FUL Proposed new entrance building, restaurant extension, relocation of outdoor seating terrace and parking alterations and additions at existing garden centre site at Warbreck Garden Centre, Lyelake Lane, Lathom.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
2018/0495/FUL Development including change of use and remodelling of existing space from vacant office/retail accommodation into 4 no bed student HMO accommodation with micro pub/ wine bar and associated external alterations at 37 Burscough Street, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0501/LBC Listed Building Consent - Replacement of all existing rotten timber windows and doors with matching style casement windows and entrance doors at 4 Plox Brow, Tarleton.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0519/FUL Two storey side extension and single storey extension and erection of detached garage at 8 Mill Lane, Parbold.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0539/FUL Replacement of the old timber storage building, with a new steel storage building on a concrete base at Ormskirk And District Scouts Headquarters, Hall Lane, Lathom.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.
How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated:6th June 2018
PDNOT998

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ECUMENICAL CENTRE, SKELMERSDALE
PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP ORDER 2018
No. 1/2018

On 5th June 2018 West Lancashire Borough Council confirmed the above order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to stop up a 2.8 metre width of the footway from the Ecumenical Centre entrance and continuing in a westerly direction, commencing at Ordnance Survey grid reference SD3488-406425 at point A and proceeding in a southerly direction for approximately 10 metres to Ordnance Survey grid reference SD3488-406415 at point B (shown hatched black on the Order plan).

A copy of the confirmed Order and the Order plan may be seen free of charge at West Lancashire Borough Council Offices, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF between the hours of 9am-5pm and at the CSP, Unit 142, Concourse, Skelmersdale WN8 6LN. Copies of the Order and plan may be bought there at the price of 50 per sheet.

The Order comes into force on 6th June 2018, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under Section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

Dated: 5th June 2018

Mr J Harrison, Director of Development and Regeneration

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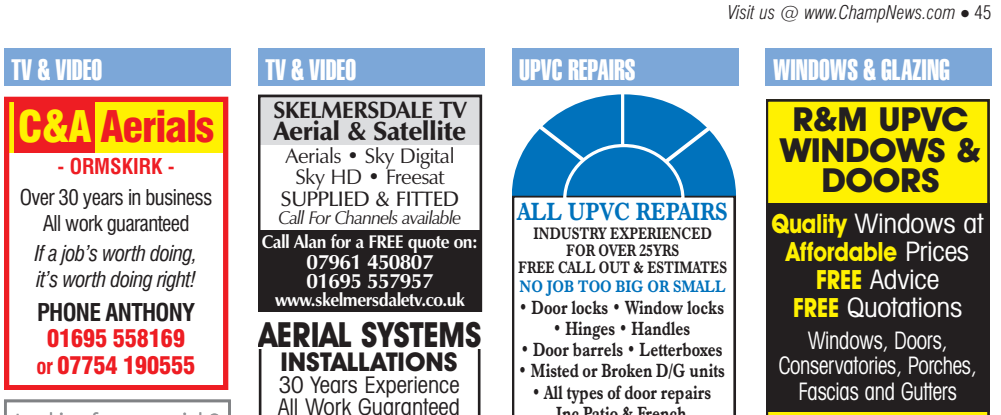

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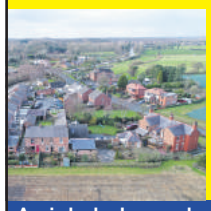

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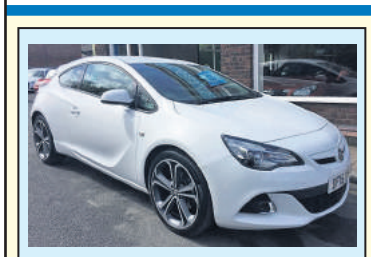

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IT'S NOT every weekend that you get asked to help put a car into production. Don't worry, nobody from Vauxhall has rung me up, asking whether - as that bloke from *the Champion* – if I have any tips on what I would like to see in the next-generation Adam.

Nor am I loaded enough to be one of those lucky souls invited to, er, help Ferrari develop its next model by paying for a one-off track-day special that you're only allowed to access three times a year.

But some Estonians have asked me to bung them a couple of quid to help get their retro-styled electric three-wheeler off the ground. They obviously haven't approached Deborah Meaden and Duncan Bannatyne yet, but as a car nut I'll save them the trouble.

Nobe – an eco-friendly start-up specialising in microcars, not a mis-spelling of Leicester-based supercar maker Noble – is using a crowdfunding site to attempt to secure £800,000 for the new car.

Apparently the thing that'll excite Green-peace types is that it's zero emissions and easily recyclable, but the bit that grabs me is that it looks good.

The front end looks like it could've come from a shrunken Borgward Isabella (you'll have to Google it), the way the rear end tapers to a set of full-width lights is lovely, and the delicate chrome details between the two are distinctly 1960s.

Oh, and there's a very faint whiff of Jensen Interceptor about that rear glass treatment.

It also has room for three, will sit at 70mph happily enough and promises a two-hour charging time, but I'm not exactly going to be taking out a second mortgage or hounding my bank manager any time soon.

There have been plenty of miniscule motors over the years, from Messerschmitts and Minis to modern day Smart cars, and none of their creators needed to use a crowdfunding site.

The asking figure of £800k also sounds a bit far-fetched, when you consider that Aston Martin apparently had to raise £200 million to help develop their new DBX off-roader, likely to be called the Varekai when it makes production.

All this coming from someone who's owned two Minis, once bought a Renault 5 for £100 for a laugh and is currently restoring a Reliant Robin.

I completely get the point of cars that offer up motoring fun in pint-sized packages, but if the Nobe's that clever an idea I'd expect *Dragons' Den* types would be queuing up to invest in it.

Best of luck, chaps, but I'm out.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Amount of Credit	£9,471.37
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Optional Final Payment	£3,515.00
Interest Charges	£1,516.63
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£11,647.00
APR Representative	5.9%

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1.0 ecoTEC SRi 5dr

£2,500 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just £245 per month | £245 customer deposit | £500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£18,498.59
Customer Deposit	£245.00
Deposit Allowance	£2,500.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£15,253.69
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Optional Final Payment	£6,246.00
Interest Charges	£2,507.31
Annual Mileage	5,000
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Optional Final Payment	£6,959.00
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1.2 82PS SE

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Deposit Allowance	£1,000.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£13,504.00
47 Monthly Payments	£196.46
Optional Final Payment	£6,175.00
Interest Charges	£1,904.62
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£17,104.62
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1.2T SE

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Customer Deposit	£275.00
Deposit Allowance	£1,200.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£19,025.00
47 Monthly Payments	£275.45
Optional Final Payment	£9,381.00
Interest Charges	£3,302.15
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£24,302.15
APR Representative	5.9%

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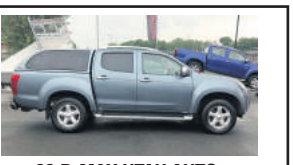

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Burscough fall to five wicket defeat

IN the First Division, Burscough were beaten by five wickets at Newton le Willows.

Choosing to bat first, Burscough were dismissed for 120 with Chris Andrews 64 top scoring, whilst Matt Parkinson 4-17 and Rameez Alam 3-18 both shone with the ball.

In reply, skipper Chris Chambers led the way with 43 and Alam finished unbeaten on 25* as Newton sealed victory on 121-5 with Ryan Hughes taking 3-14.

Southport & Birkdale who have a game in hand over the leaders Orrell Red Triangle closed the gap to just a single point with a 73 run home win against Birkenhead Park.

The hosts chose to bat and thanks to runs from Adam Phillips 59, Chris Cunningham 28, Alex Trimboli 25 and Charlie Byrne 24 were able to declare on 195-8, with Ahmad Abdullah bowling right through the innings to claim 7-59.

In reply, the visitors were soon put on triple spin by Gary Keedy, skipper Chris Firth and Cunningham as they were washed away for 122, with Keedy claiming 6-32.

Third placed Ainsdale recorded a huge 98 run win at Fleetwood Hesketh, the visitors chose to bat first and thanks runs from Andy Davies who was bizarrely given out for 37, Brandon Faber who made 36 and Stephen Lucas who hit 30 were able to declare on 163-9, with Tommy Wareing 3-23 and Danny Murphy 3-31 taking the bulk of the wickets.

In reply, Mal Swift then took control of the match with the ball as his 7-27 helped roll over the hosts for a paltry 65.

THIS weekend's local LDCC fixtures (1pm)...Bootle v Colwyn Bay, Highfield v Formby, Leigh v Ormskirk, Northern v Rainhill, Ainsdale v Newton Le Willows, Burscough v Southport & Birkdale, Orrell Red Triangle v Fleetwood Hesketh, Caldy v Hightown St Mary's, St Helens Town v Maghull and Southport Trinity v Northop Hall.

Hartley's 6-66 seals victory for Ormskirk

Platt scores half century on his first XI debut as team get back to winning ways

LIGHT showers put the dampeners on a few Liverpool & District Cricket Competition fixtures last weekend, with many having a delayed start which resulted in some captains making bold declarations in order to try and force a positive result in the allotted time left to play, *writes Glenn Wallworth*.

Fourth placed Ormskirk got back to winning ways in the Premier Division with a 47 run home win against Rainford.

Asked to bat first Ormskirk declared on 237-7 with Alex Rankin 59, Luke Platt 51* on his 1st XI league debut, Gary Knight 38, John Armstrong 33 and Tom Hartley 22* all weighing in with valuable runs.

In reply, opener Paul Farrar fell one short of his century on 99 but he lacked any real support as Rainford were dismissed for 190, with Hartley topping off a fine individual performance by taking 6-66 with the ball.

Northern moved up to top spot with a 43 run victory at Wallasey,

The visitors chose to bat and bravely declared on 138-8 with skipper James Cole 34 and Justin Snow 29 top scoring, whilst Matty Hughes 3-9 and Matthew Keogh 3-54 were the pick of the bowlers.

In reply, Liam Grey 4-37, Tom Sephton 3-22 and Jamie Barnes 3-28 made sure the hosts got nowhere near to their target as they were dismissed for 95 with Josh Rylance unbeaten on 41.*

Formby slipped to second place after an agonising closely fought draw at home against Colwyn Bay.

The visitors were asked to bat and managed to declare on 192-5, thanks in the main to valuable runs from Patrick Leach 90 and George Johansen 66.

In reply, the hosts had just 28 overs in which to reach their target and rapid runs from William Porterfield 70, James Seward 47 and Sam Oldham 43 almost took them over line before they closed just two runs short of victory on 191-5.

Third placed Bootle recorded a convincing ten wicket win at Lytham.

Having put the hosts in to bat Chris Liptrot 5-46 and Will Purser 4-39 let the ball do the talking as Lytham were dismantled for 105, with Matt Shawcross unbeaten on 39.*

In reply openers Vishal Tripathi 64* and Will Hale 40* guided the visitors to 110-0 to wrap up victory.

Superb all round effort from Molloy in win for Maghull

IN the Second Division, Maghull got back to winning ways with a 56 run home win against leaders Caldy.

After electing to bat first Maghull declared on 190-8 with Josh Mahoney 40, Cam Lawrenson 40* and Anthony Molloy 36 scoring the bulk of the runs, whilst Zaighum Abbas took 4-81 with the ball. In reply, the visitors collapsed from 41-0 to 134 all out, thanks in the main to a match winning 6-31 from Australian all rounder Mahoney.

Hightown St Mary's were held to a draw at home against Spring View, the hosts were asked to bat and declared their innings on 195-5, thanks in the main to valuable runs from Jayden Schadendorf 55, Muhammad Zeb 52 and skipper Ben Ashcroft with 26.

In reply, the visitors opening pair of Dave Gornall 49 and Lewis Matthews 29 got them off to a great start, but 5-37 and a run out from Jim Kelly pegged them back as they closed the game out on 155-7.

Green is back for Linnets as club announce team will revert to former strip

MOST Burscough supporters will be celebrating being back on familiar ground this week as the club announced that they are to play in green shirts next season.

Regular Linnets supporters will be pleased this week after their pressure has brought a happy conclusion at Victoria Park in the debate over the colours that Burscough play in.

Although their team had started the 2017/18 season playing in the famous green strip, around September Burscough announced that their first choice colours would now be all white with green trims, with a change colour of orange.

It brought uproar from the regulars at their games.

With the exception of a short spell around ten years ago, Burscough have played in a green strip since their foundation after the Second World War and before that in their previous guise as Burscough Rangers.

So the supporters were not pleased at all.

However, the officials of the club have listened and taken note.

Near the end of the season the club held a ballot in which four choices of kit design for next season were offered, the winner was the green kit that can be viewed here.

Speaking on the club website Burscough chairman Mike Swift said: "The clubs management listened and took a step back and sincerely welcomed Linnets fans' constructive comment for the new campaign's home kit.

"We will now work with sponsors and arrange with suppliers as we prepare for the new 2018/19 football season."

Bursough's shirt for next season.

Bakkor and Davies set to leave Skem

SKELMERSDALE United have secured the signatures of what will form the basis of their squad for next season in Evo-Stik Division One North, plus they also told us of a trio who have progressed onto bigger clubs after impressing with Dave Powell's team last season.

Fourteen players have committed themselves to Skem by signing forms for next season, the list is; Chris Cheetham, Josh Wardle, Jack Fleming, Phil Mooney, Jonathan Crane, James Galloway, Wade Joyce, Tom Molyneux, Mike Roddy, Chris Hill, Nathan Randell and George Withe, while two others who were on the books have signed again with the intention of playing for Skem, Harry Blackburn and Callum Mahoney.

However, three players who will not be with Skem next season are, Scott Bakkor, Liam Davies and Jordan Darr. Bakkor scored some vital goals at the back end of the season that boosted Skem, Jordan Darr was on loan from Chorley and it is understood that his contract with the Magpies has been extended; Liam Davies arrived from Chester and was very impressive with his creativity in midfield. Bakkor is going to Stalybridge Celtic and Davies looks set to join Liam Watson at Southport.

Speaking on the club website manager Dave Powell said: "It is great to have so many of the squad extending their commitment to the club so early and there are still discussions ongoing with other members of the squad."

Skelmersdale also this week announced their season ticket prices for next season. £120 for Adults and £60 for Concessions, turnstile prices will remain the same as last season £8 Adults, £4 Concessions and under 16's £1.

Skelmersdale United season tickets can be purchased by phoning 01695 575958.

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SKELMERSDALE
Champion

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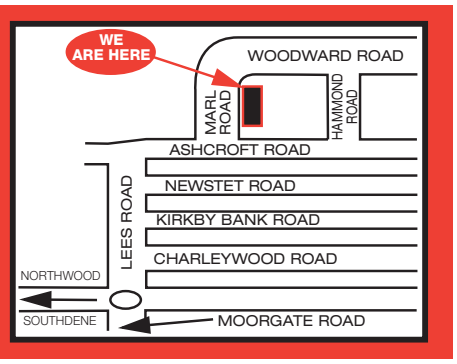

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Focus on Care and Independent Living

At some stage in our lives, as we get older, most of us will come to rely on a care service program, whether for ourselves or a relative.

From home services to residing in a care home, fortunately we are lucky to live in communities that offer so many different options in levels of care. However, as there is such a vast array of choices available, it can often prove both daunting and confusing when selecting which is going to be right for you or a close relative.

The one common goal for both the patient and the professionals is to ensure that people remain as independent as they can for as long as possible. Over the next few pages the Champion offers you a choice and advice of what services are out there and what you can expect. Where care is concerned, one size can never fit all!

Grants for home adaptations

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Being able to live at home independently for as long as possible is something that we all want but if you're not able to enjoy your home, this can affect you in many ways. If you are having difficulty accessing your home, can't manage the stairs or take a bath, you may benefit from having your home adapted.

West Lancashire Borough Council offers disabled facilities grants that can be used to pay for adaptations such as ramps, stairlifts and level access showers.

To apply directly to the Council for a grant you must be aged over 19 and be a home-owner, private tenant or housing association tenant and live in West Lancashire.

You must also be disabled or have a long-term health condition that restricts your ability to carry out basic daily tasks such as bathing or getting up and down the stairs.

An occupational therapist will be asked to assess you in your home to determine the type of adaptations that you need.

The grants are means tested so all applicants will be asked to complete a financial assessment before being assessed by an occupational therapist. To find out more about disabled facilities grants please email **privatesectorhousing@westlancs.gov.uk** or ring **01695 585279.**

Adaptations for West Lancashire Borough Council tenants are dealt with separately. Contact the Property Services Team by email at **property.serviceshousing@westlancs.gov.uk** or ring on **01695 585292.**

Disabled facilities grants are also available for children. Referrals for a grant must come from a paediatric occupational therapist. If you do not have an occupational therapist, contact Lancashire County Council on 0300 123 6720 or speak to your GP.

Above images are for illustration purposes only

Helping The Carer

A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. Caring for an another person can sometimes prove difficult but it can also be a positive and rewarding experience. Not all carers are trained professionals, many are just caring for someone they love.

If you're a carer, there are many organisations that can provide practical and financial help, as well as short breaks from caring. Most carers have a legal right to an assessment of their own needs. Take this opportunity to discuss with the social services department of your local authority any help you may need. You can ask for any help that will assist in maintaining your own health and wellbeing, ensuring you can balance caring with other aspects of your life, such as work and family commitments. Social services will then use the assessment to decide what help to provide.

Below are a number of ways that you can take a break from your caring role and this is something that you can also discuss with a social worker or care manager. They may also be able to suggest other ways that might suit you better:

1. RESIDENTIAL RESPITE: the person you care for is looked after by someone else for a short period of time, either in residential or nursing care, or on holiday.

2. DOMICILIARY CARE: someone can come into your home for a few hours or even overnight, so you can go out or have some time to yourself.

You can sometimes get a break when the person you care for is involved in other activities, for instance at school or at a day care centre.

As well as the practical and emotional support that you may require as a carer, you may also need financial help and advice. You may require financial support for extra expenses that come within the caring role. Carer's Allowance is the main state benefit for carers, so it's important to find out if you are eligible. You can get a claim form from your local Jobcentre Plus office or the Department for Work and Pensions. For more information on what benefits you're entitled to, contact or visit your local Citizen's Advice Bureau.

If you're working as well as caring for someone, you have the right to ask your employer for flexible working arrangements to help you. This could be working part-time, flexi-time (when you choose your working hours), compressed hours (working your contracted hours over fewer days), job-sharing or homeworking. You have the right to make one request for flexible working and your employer must consider it but does not have to agree to it.

Your health and wellbeing is most important for yourself and the person you are caring for and we all need a little help some times.

Active West Lancs offers residents of West Lancs opportunities to engage in a wide range of activities across the borough, free of charge.

Active West Lancs

We run friendly, accommodating groups who welcome regular new members!
Great way to meet new people and socialise whilst being active!

Activities include:

MONDAYS
9.30am - 10.30am Energise Class
A low level exercise class for beginners at West Lancs Youth Zone (opposite Nye Bevan), Skelmersdale
10.00am - 11.00am Tai Chi
Proven to improve balance, co-ordination and well being. Emmanuel Methodist Church Hall, Ormskirk (booking essential)

TUESDAYS
10.00am - 12.00pm Line Dancing
Dance, have fun and socialise! All levels welcome at Greenhill Hub, Skelmersdale
11am - 12.00pm Tai Chi
Proven to improve balance, co-ordination and well being. Burscough Methodist Church Hall (booking essential)

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12 week courses
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For more information, contact Active West Lancs
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Sefton New Directions, 3rd Floor, Investment Centre, 375 Stanley Road, Bootle L20 3EF

Carers across the UK

- There are around seven million carers in the UK – that is one in ten people. This figure is rising.
- Three in five people will be carers at some point in their lives in the UK.
- The economic value of the contribution made by carers in the UK is £132bn a year.
- By 2030, the number of carers in the UK will increase by 3.4 million (around 60%).
- One in five people aged 50–64 are carers in the UK.
- 65% of older carers (aged 60–94) have long term health problems or a disability themselves.
- There are currently 800,000 people living in the UK with dementia.
- Two thirds of people with dementia live at home and most are supported by unpaid carers.

Independent Living

The longer anyone can live independently in their own home, the happier they will generally be. You may be entitled to some help to adapt your home to any special needs required. These changes can be vital for both the carer and charge. Grants and financial help may be available to you and your local authority will guide you through what you need to do.

However, sometimes, help or some sort of supervision may be needed to continue living well and without problems. One of the options available is Sheltered Housing, also known as Retirement Housing. This is an ideal solution if you are still physically and mentally able to live independently and would enjoy the companionship of others your age. These homes are usually self contained, smaller and easier-to-manage with access to communal areas, such as a lounge, laundry area and garden. Some will have a warden who lives on site or off site, and all should provide 24-hour emergency assistance and help through an alarm system. A lot of these homes will arrange regular social events for residents and these communities promote active lifestyles in a secure environment, providing low-maintenance living.

Most sheltered housing for rent is provided by local councils or housing associations and there's often a waiting list. Some Retirement housing is also available to buy and is usually built by private developers. The scheme is usually run by a separate management group who employ the warden or scheme manager, who organises maintenance and other services. Make sure the managers are members of a recognised trade body such as the Association of Retirement Housing Managers.

Almshouses are another type of sheltered housing run by charitable trusts, mainly for older people. Each charity has a policy on who it will assist, for example residents who live in a particular geographical area or workers who have retired from a particular trade. As Almshouse residents are beneficiaries of a charity, they don't have the same rights as tenants.

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The tyres are puncture proof and non-marking.
Max user 18 stone
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Rascal 388S £1095*

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Dementia Friends

Having reported on many dementia awareness courses being carried out within the Sefton, West Lancs and Liverpool areas, it was time for the staff at the Champion to learn more about the disease too.

Held over two days, 20 staff from the offices based in Southport learnt more about the disease which has now overtaken heart disease and cancer as the biggest killer in the UK.

Information worker and Dementia Champion Linda Lawson from The Alzheimer's Society Sefton, who being visually impaired was assisted by her husband Jim ("her human guide dog"), led the groups through engaging and fun sessions (we played bingo, with prizes!).

We learnt more about the different types of dementia, their causes, and what we can do help ourselves. One in 14 over the age of 65 has dementia, statistics show.

While our preconceptions about the disease were challenged - we were taught that people can live well with the disease, we also learnt to appreciate more the challenges of people living with dementia and those who care for them. Who knew about what sort of things could go wrong with making a cup of tea?

Afterwards Linda said the biggest issue people who live with dementia face is the attitude of other people. "People do not understand it well," she said, "The whole idea of these sessions is to give people some information to be better informed. It's all about becoming a dementia friendly community."

Staying Engaged with Alzheimer's

Seniors with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias should strive to continue to do as much as they can to retain their independence for as long as possible.

Being at home is more often than not, the best place for this.
"The preferred environment for those with dementia is generally in familiar surroundings such as their home."
This is the view of Dr. Jane F. Potter, who served on the expert panel to help develop content for Home Instead Senior Care® network's free Alzheimer's disease or other dementias CARE training programme.
The following, from Dr. Potter and Home Instead Senior Care, are tips on how to help family carers continue to engage older adults with Alzheimer's in everyday activities:

1 ALLOW THE INDIVIDUAL TO DO AS MUCH AS THEY CAN BUT DON'T EXPECT THEM TO DO WHAT THEY CAN'T.
Give clear instructions, which may mean giving instructions one step at a time.
2 SIMPLIFY THE TASK.
When dressing, put them in a position to do as much as possible. Make it easier to dress, for instance, by laying out clothing in sequential order, with the underwear and socks on top.
3 START AN ACTIVITY AND THEN ASK FOR HELP.
For example if your Mum has forgotten how to make that favourite family recipe, begin the process and ask for her help with whatever she can.
4 MAKE ACTIVITIES EASIER OR CHANGE THE ACTIVITY.
If the person can't play bridge any more, play another card game instead.
5 REMEMBER, IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN JUST THE TASK.
Turn a bath into an opportunity to smell different soaps or, when picking out clothing, discuss fashion or special colours.
6 REMEMBER THAT EXERCISE CAN HELP KEEP SENIORS ACTIVE LONGER.
It is important to help them to get up and move more, not less.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Talented New Threads Looking For New Customers

New Directions provides support services for adults with special needs relating to age, disabilities or mental health diagnosis. Service users who engage with New Directions enjoy rewarding and fulfilling lives through individual support that also delivers peace of mind for families and loved ones.

One of the unique services that New Directions provide is called New Threads. Led by talented Cathy Donnelly and colleague Jacky Cooney it supports around 25 service users, helping them to develop the skills needed to learn sewing, dressmaking and embroidery.

Based in Dunningsbridge Road Netherton, service users are taught how to produce a wide range of attractive made-to-measure soft furnishing items. These include curtains, Roman blinds and cushions which have to be seen to appreciate the high quality of work. Although very successful, New Threads would like to welcome even more customers.

As well as made to measure soft furnishings there is a wonderful range of items that are ready to buy such as aprons, bags, cushion covers and if you need to have a garment altered then this is another service that is offered.

Cathy Donnelly commented: "We welcome new customers and are happy for visitors to call at any time, particularly as all the revenue generated is ploughed back into the project's future activities. Visitors can be assured of a warm welcome."

- **If you need bespoke curtains or soft furnishings or a garment altered please ring: 0151 363 7050.**
- **If you would like more information on the range of adult services that New Directions provide then call 0151 705 0300 or email feedback@ndirections.org**

West Lancs Peer Support Group

Our service consists of fund management, payroll service, HMRC payments, paying staff, contracts of employment, employers liability insurance, financial records for audit by your funders.

We have been supporting disabled people since 2004 who have Social Care funding via Direct Payments.
We are also NHS trained to work with people with complex needs who have Continuing Health Care funding or Personal Health Budget.

If we can be of help, give us a ring on:

01695 556554

Keeping Mobile

If you're living with limited mobility there are a number of mobility aids available which can make it easier for you to get around – whether you're in your own home or outside.

So whether it's getting to and from your car or mobility equipment which can aid you climbing the stairs, there is an extensive range of care and mobility aids that can assist you in making daily activities simpler and more enjoyable. Mobility aids can make a huge difference to someone who is older or living with a disability, by giving them the opportunity to remain independent both at home or when out and about.

The choice of equipment available for those living with mobility issues varies greatly depending on the individual's range of motion. However, mobility aids are often seen negatively by older people and they can therefore be reluctant to use them for fear of looking old or impaired by others. In fact, mobility aids could do with a new image to reflect the positive benefit they bring to people's lives. Someone who is worried about having a fall may be limiting when and where they go out. For them, a simple walking stick can give them the confidence boost they need to be able to meet up with friends or to walk down the road to collect the paper. The added bonus of exercise and the effect on a person's wellbeing from seeing people and getting fresh air is immeasurable.

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Local GP, practicing in Sefton

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Final Arrangements

One of the most emotional times in someone's life is saying goodbye to a loved one. This means it can become hard to think of all the practicalities that need taking care of next.

There are three main things you must do in the first few days after someone dies.

1. Ensure you obtain a medical certificate from their GP or hospital doctor. This is very important as you will need this certificate to register their death. In the case of their passing being unexpected, or if they haven't been seen by their family doctor in the 2 weeks prior, their death is reported to a coroner and could end up in a post-mortem or inquest. If this happens it sometimes can mean a delay in the funeral.

2. If you register the death within five days, you will be given all the documents you need for the funeral. Ask your registrar about the free Tell Us Once service. If this is offered in your area, this means that several government departments can be informed of the death at the same time and takes a fair bit of pressure off you. This can be done online or by telephone.

3. Arranging the Funeral – When choosing the Funeral Director, try and choose an accredited one from an organisation who adheres to codes of practice. These must provide you with a price list if you request one. Organisations such as National Association of Funeral Directors, National Federation of Funeral Directors and Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors are all good examples.

The Funeral Director will take you through all the options available to ensure your loved one has the send off they deserve. Be clear on what is included in the price quoted for their service to avoid any unexpected costs for any extras.

The financial part

This is the part that sometimes brings with it a bit of worry but if your loved one has being organised and left an insurance policy to cover/help with the costs of the funeral it takes a lot of that worry away.

Perhaps your loved one had a pre-paid funeral plan in place or has a sizeable estate (savings) that could also help cover the cost. If you have any difficulties in paying for the funeral, you may be able to apply for a 'Funeral Expenses Payment' from your local government.

YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION ON ALL OF THE ABOVE POINTS BY GOING TO

www.gov.uk/after-a-death/arrange-the-funeral

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Our family run business is in the hands of Melanie Hardman, 3rd generation funeral director and friendly face in the local community.

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Independent Funeral Directors - Pre Paid Funeral Plans - Floral Tributes - Stone Masons

Financial Planning

For many people, the goal is to arrive at retirement age with a substantial pension pot and a considerable sum in ISA accounts. Is this always possible? You know you should be saving for your retirement but is a pension always the best way?

With interest rates having been at a historical low, there are a vast number of alternative options available to you for ways to save for your retirement – but which will suit you best?

More often than not, it's much better to take advice. Start by picking the right Financial Advisor for you. Meet with them and discuss your current situation and your end goal. They will then provide you a variety of ways in which you can invest, save and increase your capital.

Alongside this, they will work with you to protect your assets. Whether this is looking at inheritance tax, how this effects you and how to make the best of it. Or whether it is writing a will to ensure your assets are protected and passed onto the family member of your choice.

Getting a solicitor to draw up your will can save a lot of stress for those you leave being as well as giving you peace of mind it is all taken care of. The solicitor will need a list of your assets, including property, savings, vehicles or investments. Then what you wish to happen to each of these assets and who they are left to. You are also able to include any particular wishes you have for your funeral.

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Pop in for a chat at the Skelmersdale Office, contact us at david_shove@nfumutual.co.uk or call 01695 511 77.

When you get in touch we'll explain the advice services we offer and the charges.

NFU Mutual Financial Advisers advise on NFU Mutual products and selected products from specialist providers.

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www.nfumutual.co.uk/skelmersdale

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